

University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Department of Integrative Biology

CERTIFICATION OF GRADUATE STUDENT FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE

Certification for the MS/MA and Ph.D. degrees gives the student and her/his Advisory Committee a formal venue to discuss broad expectations for the student's graduate career. During certification, the AC will review the student's background and point out areas of deficiencies that should be improved during the course of the degree program. In general, graduate students are expected to have backgrounds in their area of study equivalent to or exceeding Departmental expectations for Zoology undergraduate students.

This form must be completed by students pursuing a Master's Degree by the end of the second semester after entering the graduate program in the Department of Integrative Biology. Certification acknowledges admission to candidacy for this degree. Candidates are expected to complete a Defense of a Master's Thesis / Research Report within six semesters after entry into the program.

For students who plan to take a terminal MA/MS degree, or who plan to continue for a Ph.D. but desire to complete a MA/MS degree first, the AC consists of three members total, two of which must be members of the graduate faculty. The Advisor/Major Professor must be an Integrative Biology faculty member. For students who plan to continue on to a Ph.D. program, certification for the Ph.D. degree must also be completed by the end of the second semester after entering our graduate program.

**Academic History**

Name:

Undergraduate work

Institution:

Dates attended:

Major subjects:

Degree (with date):

Undergraduate work

Institution:

Dates attended:

Major subjects:

Degree (with date):

Date entered the UW-Madison Graduate School:

### **Requirements for a Master's Degree**

The courses that a student is required to take for completion of a UW-Madison Zoology Ph.D. degree are determined by the student's AC. The program does not have a set list of courses that are required by all students.

1. To complete the MS/MA degree, students must complete at least 30 credits.
2. Courses taken after enrollment as a graduate student. As stated above, by graduation students must total at least 30 graduate credits, with at least 16 of those credits consisting of courses designated as graduate coursework at UW. For a list of those courses, see below
3. For those students with MS/MA degree coursework from another institution, the committee may choose to count up to 14 credits of coursework from another institution. Typically committees will choose to cap graduate course work from another institution at a lower level than 14 credits, but this is a committee decision to be made on a case by case basis. If applicable, please list the graduate courses from another institution that the committee would like to count towards the Masters Degree and total the number of credits that will be counted towards the graduate credit requirement. Note that these courses will not appear on a UW transcript. Major advisors must sign off on credits and inform the Graduate Student Coordinator that outside credits intend to be used so the Graduate Coordinator can notify the Grad School.

#### 4 Courses that count toward the minimum degree requirements.

Credit Requirements- To earn a Masters students must complete 30 credits. 16 of those 30 credits must come from courses designed for graduate students. In Zoology those courses are listed below. Students may take classes from other Departments to fulfill those requirements but need to check with the home department to ensure that the class is designated as graduate coursework. Graduate work in Zoology may include any courses numbered 700 and above including the following:

Zoology 725 Ecosystem Concepts  
Zoology 750 Problems in Oceanography  
Zoology 765 Developmental Neuroscience  
Zoology 799 Independent Study  
Zoology 879 Advanced Landscape Ecology  
Zoology 911 Limnology and Marine Science Seminar

Zoology 950 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Animal Behavior  
Zoology 953 Introduction to Ecology Research at UW-Madison  
Zoology 954 Seminar in Endocrinology-Reproductive Physiology  
Zoology 955 Science in the LTER network  
Zoology 955 Seminar-Limnology  
Zoology 956 Professional Development  
Zoology 956 Seminar-Ecology  
Zoology Seminar-Evolution  
Zoology 958 Seminar-Biophysical and Physiological Ecology  
Zoology 960 Seminar in Cellular Biology  
Zoology 961 Seminar-Morphology  
Zoology 962 Behavioral Neuroscience  
Zoology 962 Seminar-Ethology  
Zoology 965 Seminars in Developmental Biology  
Zoology 969 Colloquium on Teaching College Biology  
Zoology 980 Earth System Science Seminar  
Zoology 990 Research

5. Additional courses required by the Master's Advisory Committee.

6. Additional courses recommended but not required by the Advisory Committee.

7. A Thesis (meets requirements for filing in UW-Madison Library) or Research Report based on original research is required. A defense of the work is expected within 6 semesters after entering graduate school.

( ) Thesis required

( ) Thesis or Research Report acceptable

6. Scheduling of the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination for students who plan to continue graduate study in the Ph.D. program in Zoology at the UW-Madison

( ) Before completion of requirements for MA/MS Degree (estimated semester for exam: \_\_\_\_\_).

( ) After completion of requirements for MA/MS Degree (follow regulations for students with MA/MS who plan to earn a Ph.D. in Zoology at UW-Madison).

Date:

Name

Department

Signature

1.  
(Major Professor)

2.

3.

4.  
(optional)

5.  
(optional)

[Signing this document certifies that the completion of proposed courses and a Thesis/Research Report will satisfy the requirements for a Master's Degree.]

I understand all terms and conditions contained in this document and the information provided in the "OUTLINE OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ZOOLOGY" and recognize that they constitute the requirements for a Master's Degree in Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Graduate Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[All parties involved in this certification recognize that contingencies may arise during the course of graduate study that alter close adherence to the time schedules recommended herein. The Advisory Committee will sympathetically consider adjustments appropriate to the nature of the contingencies.]