## Department of Animal and Food Sciences

## Milestones and Expectations for Programs of Study

**Master’s Program (Thesis)**

**Year 1**

* Establish Graduate Committee (Department Chair approval) within 6 months of matriculation
* Establish program of study based on research topic (Committee approval)
* Prepare literature review and present research project proposal (seminar) (Committee approval). Proposal must be provided to committee at least 10 working days prior to seminar for its defense.
* Modify program of study if needed based on project proposal and committee feedback

**Year 2**

* Public seminar summarizing thesis research. Thesis must be provided to committee at least 10 working days prior to public seminar for its defense.
* Thesis defense (oral exam by Committee)
* Signed thesis

**Other Expectations:**

* At least 1 presentation at a professional meeting/conference (poster or oral)
* At least 1 peer-reviewed manuscript submitted or ready for journal submission

**PhD Program**

**Years 1 & 2**

* Establish Graduate Committee (Department Chair approval) within 6 months of matriculation
* Establish program of study based on research topic (Committee approval)
* Prepare literature review and present research project proposal (seminar) (Committee approval). Proposal must be provided to committee at least 10 working days prior to seminar for its defense
* Modify program of study if needed based on project proposal and committee feedback
* At least 1 Graduate Committee meeting must be held each year to update committee on progress and to provide feedback to the student.

**Years 3 & Beyond**

* Graduate Committee meeting to update committee on progress and to provide feedback to the student.
* Comprehensive qualifying examination (written and oral administered by the Graduate Committee) – held once coursework is completed. May not occur until Year 4.
* Annual Graduate Committee meeting to update committee on progress and provide feedback to the student.
* Student must be in sustaining status during the academic term that the thesis is defended.
* Public seminar
* Dissertation defense (oral exam by Committee); Dissertation must be provided to committee at least 10 working days prior to public seminar for its defense; Exam must be scheduled at least 3 weeks prior to the examination date.
* Signed dissertation

**Other Expectations:**

* A student who has previously obtained a MS degree will typically graduate in 3-4 years; a student coming directly from a BS program will typically graduate in 4-5 years
* A student who has not previously obtained a MS degree will typically complete at least 30 credits of coursework (similar to the MS program)
* At least 2 presentations at a professional meeting/conference (oral)
* At least 1 peer-reviewed manuscript accepted
* At least 1 teaching/training opportunity including mentorship and guest lectures