

 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW/CHANGE PROGRAM REQUEST</b> <b>Graduate Programs</b>		UGPC Approval _____ UFS Approval _____ Banner _____ Catalog _____
	<b>Department</b> Biological Sciences  <b>College</b> Charles E. Schmidt College of Science		
<b>Program Name</b> Masters' of Science (M.S.)		<input type="checkbox"/> New Program* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change Program*	<b>Effective Date</b> (TERM & YEAR) Fall 2023
<p><b>Please explain the requested change(s) and offer rationale below or on an attachment.</b></p> <p>Master's Thesis Degree Requirement update.</p> <p>The Biology Master's Programs seeks to revise the requirement of a maximum 3 credits of exploratory research via DIR and/or Masters Thesis to a maximum of 6 credits to be taken before enrolling in Master's Thesis Proposal Seminar (BSC 6963). This change will better prepare our students to complete the Master's Thesis Proposal by their third semester thereby keeping them on track to graduate.</p> <p>Update course number changes for DIR research credits and clarify that the total allowed toward the degree includes DIR/DIS research credits taken outside of the department.</p> <p>Remove Attend a Graduate College Thesis Workshop for this is no longer being offered.</p>			
<p><small>*All new programs and changes to existing programs must be accompanied by a catalog entry showing the new or proposed changes.</small></p>			
<b>Faculty Contact/Email/Phone</b> Dr. Randy Brooks/wbrooks@fau.edu/561-297-3888		<b>Consult and list departments that may be affected by the change(s) and attach documentation</b> None	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair <u>Sarah L. Mutton</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>Louis Merlin</u> College Dean _____ UGPC Chair _____ UGC Chair _____ Graduate College Dean _____ UFS President _____ Provost _____		<b>Date</b> 10-13-2022 10/26/2022 _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

Email this form and attachments to [UGPC@fau.edu](mailto:UGPC@fau.edu) 10 days before the UGPC meeting.

## Biological Sciences

### Master of Science (M.S.)

#### Thesis Option

This degree program is designed for students whose career goals include a research emphasis. This option is tailored for students doing research or contemplating graduate work for a Ph.D. degree.

This M.S. degree requires a minimum of 36 total credits. Degree requirements include:

1. At least half or 18 credits must be Biology Department courses;
2. 12 credits of graded coursework at the 6000 level (exclusive of any research credits);
3. ~~Students doing exploratory research can take up to 3 credits in Master's Thesis (BSC 6971) or Directed Independent Study (BSC 6905) before their proposal. Thereafter, no more research credits can be taken until the research topic has been approved by the student's thesis committee. Note: No more than 3 credits of Directed Independent Study can count toward the degree.~~  
3. Before students can register for Master's Thesis Proposal Seminar (BSC 6963) (i.e., student formally presenting their research proposal to their committee and subsequent approval by committee), students doing exploratory research can take up to 6 credits, which can include:
  - A) Up to 3 credits of Directed Independent Research in Biological Sciences (DIR; BSC 6917) or up to 3 credits Directed Independent Study (DIS)/DIR; either taken outside of Biology. Any combination of DIS/DIR credits, regardless of source cannot total more than 3 credits that will count toward the degree.
  - B) Up to 3 credits of Master's Thesis (BSC 6971)
4. Master's Thesis Proposal (BSC 6963), 1 credit maximum\*;
5. Master's Thesis Defense Seminar (BSC 6975), 1 credit maximum\*\*;
6. Minimum of 6 credits of Master's Thesis (BSC 6971) is required. Note: No more than 12 credits of Master's Thesis can count toward the degree;
7. Maximum of 3 credits in Directed Independent ~~Research in Biological Sciences (BSC 6917)~~ ~~Study (BSC 6905)~~ will count toward the degree; or up to 3 credits Directed Independent Study (DIS)/DIR: either taken outside of Biology. Any combination of DIS/DIR credits, regardless of source cannot total more than 3 credits that will count toward the degree
8. Remaining courses must be 5000 or 6000 level;
9. ~~Attend a Graduate College Thesis Workshop.~~

\* For Master's thesis Proposal Seminar requirements, see [Biology Regulations and Procedures](#).

\*\* For Master's Thesis Defense requirement, see [Biology Regulations and Procedures](#) and the Graduate College for current [University thesis requirements](#).