

## FREC Degree Requirements

Below are the general requirements for all FREC graduate students, followed by specific requirements by degree program: Master of Forestry (M.F.), Master of Science (M.S.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Students are also expected to review and adhere to the Graduate School Policies.

### I. General Requirements

**Advisory Committee:** Each student must form an advisory committee consisting of at least three faculty members for the M.F. and M.S. degrees and four for the Ph.D. degree, including chair or co-chairs. Students are expected to convene a meeting with their advisory committee a minimum of once per year.

**Evaluation of Student Progress:** Graduate students and their committee are required to complete the departmental student progress evaluation form annually.

**Plan of Study:** Each graduate student must submit a plan of study outlining their proposed coursework. Plans of study are due by the end of the student's second academic semester and must be approved by their advisory committee.

**Ethics and Integrity:** All graduate students must complete the department's ethics and integrity requirement, which can be satisfied by taking FREC 5014 or completing the four activities outlined in the department's approved Ethics and Integrity Plan.

**Seminar:** All graduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of one semester of the departmental seminar (FREC 5004); however, students are expected to participate in the departmental seminar throughout their graduate program.

### II. Additional Requirements by Degree Program

#### A. Master of Forestry (M.F.)

**Degree Paper:** All M.F. students must submit an approved degree paper to the department at the completion of their graduate program. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss paper format and expectations with their advisory committee.

**Final Exam:** All M.F. students must pass a final oral exam. The final exam often includes a defense of the student's degree paper, along with an assessment of their foundational knowledge in their discipline. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss exam format and expectations with their advisory committee.

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

**Research Working Plan:** By the end of their first year in residence, M.S. students must submit a research working plan approved by their advisory committee. A research

working plan is a document that summarizes proposed research, typically including background, objectives, methods, expected results, and a timeline.

**Thesis:** All M.S. students must submit an approved thesis to the Graduate School at the completion of their graduate program. Students are strongly encouraged to review [Graduate School Policies](#) regarding thesis preparation and submission.

**Final Exam:** All M.S. students must pass a final exam. The final exam is primarily a defense of the thesis. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss exam format and expectations with their advisory committee.

**Teaching:** All M.S. students are expected to contribute to the departmental teaching mission. M.S. students can expect to be assigned as Teaching Assistants to ~2 courses during their graduate program, at the discretion of the department head and in consultation with their graduate advisor. It should be noted that FREC Teaching Assistant assignments average ~6 hours per week, unlike the more traditional 20 hour per week assistantships in other programs.

### C. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

**Research Working Plan:** By the end of their first year in residence, students must submit a research working plan approved by their advisory committee. A research working plan is a document that summarizes proposed research, typically including background, objectives, methods, expected results, and a timeline.

**Dissertation:** All Ph.D. students must submit an approved dissertation to the Graduate School at the completion of their graduate program. Students are strongly encouraged to review [Graduate School Policies](#) regarding dissertation preparation and submission.

**Preliminary and Final Exams:** All Ph.D. students must pass a preliminary and final exam. The preliminary exam is intended to assess the student's capacity to proceed with research in their chosen field of study and can only be completed after the student has submitted an approved working plan. The final exam is primarily a defense of the dissertation and can be completed no earlier than six months after a successful preliminary exam. Students are strongly encouraged to review [Graduate School Policies](#) regarding these exams and to discuss exam format and expectations with their advisory committee.

**Teaching:** All Ph.D. students are expected to contribute to the departmental teaching mission. Ph.D. students can expect to be assigned as Teaching Assistants to ~3 courses during their graduate program, at the discretion of the department head and in consultation with their graduate advisor. It should be noted that FREC Teaching Assistant assignments average ~6 hours per week, unlike the more traditional 20 hour per week assistantships in other programs.