

DRB Graduate Student Timeline for Masters Plan A

This option emphasizes bench-work research culminating in a thesis paper and defending within the context of a public seminar. The expectation is that your thesis will translate into a first-author paper for the student. This option requires significant time and focus so course selection should be performed thoughtfully, keeping in mind individual career goals. The MS plan A requires a total of 30 credits (cr): 18cr from didactic courses including 14 cr from required courses (DRB 695, DRB 601, DRB 613, DRB 614, DRB 666 and CMB 626), and 4cr from elective courses (DRB 650, ANAT 603, ANAT 604, ANAT 607, CMB 621/622, or other) as well as 12 cr from research courses (DRB 699 and DRB 700). It is important to plan your course schedule so that you can complete all course requirements within 2 years*. Individual circumstances and course preferences vary, so please plan your own timeline accordingly.

*Note: The graduate division allows a student a maximum of 7 years to finish a MS degree. Please speak with the graduate chair (Dr. Monika Ward) if you feel that you require longer than two years to complete your degree.

Year 1 (Fall)

Register for DRB 601 (2cr), DRB 613 (1cr), DRB 695 (3cr), CMB 626 (2cr) and if possible for one of the electives.

Take this semester to find a lab in which you conduct research, and make sure this lab can accommodate you (is there a potential project for you and can they hire you as a RA or accommodate you as a TA?). The PI of the lab will become your faculty advisor.

Year 1 (Spring)

Register for DRB 614 (3cr), DRB 666 (3 cr), DRB 699 (1-6cr) and at least 1 of electives. Count your didactic course credits and see how many more you need to have required 18. If you do not have enough, consider registering for more electives this semester on in summer.

Talk with your PI about the classes you plan to take. During this semester you should be dedicating most of your time towards your research. Learn lab techniques, protocols, research background papers that your PI has published or recommended. Attend senior DRB students' thesis defenses to get an idea of what you will need to prepare for in a year.

Year 1 (Summer)

Register for DRB 699 (1-6cr) and ANAT 607 (2cr)

Take the qualifying exam (May/June)

This summer should be spent in the lab with the goal of finishing your proposal by the end of the year. Talk with your PI about choosing your thesis committee.

Year 2 (Fall)

Register for DRB 699 (1-6cr) or DRB 700 (1-6 cr)

Submit your pre-candidacy progress form (Form I) at the beginning of the semester

Decide who will be on your thesis committee

Finish your thesis proposal and submit your advance to candidacy form (Form II) towards the end of the semester

Your proposal should provide you the opportunity to compile your research and also give you a general idea of what your thesis paper will include. By the end of this semester you should be finished with the bulk of your research.

Year 2 (Spring)

Register for DRB 700 (1-6cr)

Apply to the graduate division for graduation

Finish up your research by Jan/Feb

Write your thesis paper

Defend by March; submit your thesis evaluation form (Form III) immediately after your defense

Revise your thesis; submit your thesis submission form (Form IV) with a copy of your thesis (PDF format on CD rom) when your committee approves your thesis

Work closely with your PI to finish your first author publication and submit ASAP!

This is the last semester and often a hectic one. Be sure to dedicate a large amount of time just to writing your thesis paper. Please reference the graduate division website for guidelines regarding paper formatting and content. Your thesis defense should be a PowerPoint presentation lasting approximately 30-45 minutes to a public audience. Following general questions from the audience, they will be excused and you will answer questions from the committee. If you have the time, present your research in poster format at the JABSOM Biomedical Sciences Symposium usually held in April.