MS in Food and Hospitality Systems

Degree Requirements

- Minimum of 30 hours of graduate-level coursework.
- 15 hours must be at the 8000-level or above.
- Maximum of 40% of coursework can be F_S 8090 or F_S 8085 hours.

While a basic goal of the M.S. program is to provide students with specialized skills and training in research methods, the Food and Hospitality Systems graduate faculty (including faculty from Food Science, Hospitality Management and Agricultural Systems Management) believe that it is important for M.S. students to understand something of the breadth of the discipline as well.

There are three tracks in the Food and Hospitality Systems M.S. program: Food Science, Hospitality Management and Agricultural Systems Management. Each track includes specific required courses.

**Plan of Study**

The student and the major advisor, in consultation with the FHS M.S. Program Committee will prepare a plan of study (M1 form). The plan of study includes a list of the formal courses, readings, problems, research hours and seminars that the students will use to fulfill the requirements for the M.S. degree. The M1 form must be turned in to the FHS Graduate Program Coordinator by the end of the second semester of the student's graduate program for submission to the Graduate School.

**Minimum Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F_S 8402</td>
<td>Research Methods in Food Science</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>F_S 8087</td>
<td>Seminar in Food Science (2 semesters)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two 8000-level courses (excluding Readings or Problems courses)</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics Course</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F_S 8090</td>
<td>Research in Food Science</td>
<td>6</td>
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**Thesis Requirements**

A FHS Masters Degree Program Committee must be identified prior to approval of the research topic for the M.S. thesis and no later than the end of the second semester. An acceptable FHS M.S. Program Committee must include at least three graduate faculty members, at least two of whom must be from the Food and Hospitality Systems Graduate Program, including the advisor chair who must be a faculty in the track the student is in. At least one committee member must be a graduate faculty member from MU, but outside of the Food and Hospitality Systems Graduate Program. A signed M2 form which lists the names and academic programs of the committee members must be turned in to the FHS Graduate Program Coordinator by the end of the second semester of the student's graduate program for submission to the Graduate School.

The defense for the M.S. degree program will include the following components:

1. Exit seminar presented to the M.S. graduate program committee and the public.
2. Oral examination to demonstrate mastery of the course of study.

In addition to the departmental requirements, the Graduate School is requiring that all graduating students include a public abstract. The public abstract will be used by the MU Graduate School to record and track graduate student's research interests.

**Exit Seminar**

Immediately before the final examination, the M.S. student must present a seminar on his or her research. The seminar must take place when MU is officially in session and has to be announced at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date. The exit seminar is open to the general university audience. All members of the M.S. Program Committee will attend.

**Final Examination**

After the student's exit seminar has been presented, the M.S. Program Committee will conduct a final oral examination. The candidate should be prepared to defend his/her research and discuss any related areas. A report of the examination, carrying the signatures of at least three members of the committee, must be sent to the Graduate School before the deadline preceding the anticipated date of graduation. For the thesis to be considered successfully defended, the student's M.S. Program Committee must vote to pass the student on the defense with no more
than one dissenting or abstaining vote. The signed M3 form which shows the results of the student's final exam must be turned in to the FHS Graduate Program Coordinator for submission to the MU Graduate School.

All exit seminars are open to the general faculty. The Food and Hospitality Systems Graduate Program will announce exit seminars to appropriate colleagues within and outside the program. The final examination must take place when MU is officially in session and the candidate must be enrolled at MU at the time of the examination.

A final copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Graduate School electronically. A final bound copy of the thesis and at least one manuscript suitable for publication must be turned in to the Food and Hospitality Systems Graduate Program.

**Admissions**

Applicants are required to meet two sets of minimum qualifications for admission: the requirements of the MS in the Food and Hospitality Systems Graduate Program (https://gradstudies.missouri.edu/degreecategory/food-and-hospitality-systems) and the minimum requirements of the MU Graduate School (https://gradschool.missouri.edu/admissions/eligibility-process). Because requirements vary, you must refer to a degree program's graduate admission page to learn about specific admission criteria, application deadlines, eligibility and application process. Your application materials will be reviewed by both the Graduate School and the degree program to which you've applied before official admission to the University of Missouri.