Requirements for a Terminal Masters in the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology

Formal requirements for receiving an MS are as follows:

1. The Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology requires that Pharmacology and Molecular Cancer Biology students have a minimum of 30 graded units. The credits should be in subjects relating to the major program and any non-related credits must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. (**NOTE: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) orientation and workshops, as well as continuation credits do NOT count toward the 30 units necessary for an M.A. or M.S degree).”

2. Continuous registration

3. A master’s exam

Examining committee: The number of graduate faculty members required on your committee depends on how you will satisfy your Master’s exam requirement (see below). The committee must be approved by the Dean at least 30 days prior to the exam if this is the original committee request. Otherwise, changes to the committee must be approved at least one week prior to the exam.

Any of the following can be used to satisfy the Master's exam requirements;

   a. Passing of the oral preliminary exam. In order to be allowed to take this exam the student must have satisfied all the requirements set out in the “Guidelines for the Preliminary Examination in Pharmacology and Cancer Biology” document. (This option requires that the student committee be composed of at least 4 members of the graduate faculty).

   b. If the student has not taken the preliminary exam, s/he will be allowed to write a Master’s thesis and defend it at a Master’s exam with a committee comprising 3 faculty members chosen by the DGS.

   c. If the student is enrolled as a PhD student for more than 1 year after passing the preliminary examination, then a written thesis and a Master's Defense as outlined on the Graduate School website are required to obtain an MS. (This option requires that the student committee be composed of at least 3 members of the graduate faculty).

4. Students are required to file an “Intent to Receive Degree” form with the Graduate School on or before January 25 for a May degree, on or before July 1 for a September degree, on or before November 1 for a December degree, and at least one month prior to the final examination. The declaration of intention presents the title of the thesis or specifies alternative academic exercises on which the degree candidate will be examined. The declaration must have the approval of both the Director of Graduate Studies in the major department and the chair of the student's advisory committee.

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