

Handbook of Master Programs

Department of Linguistics
University of Rochester

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1 Introduction

The Rochester Linguistics faculty are grounded in the traditional fields of formal linguistics, employing empirical methodologies to examine data and topics in experimental syntax, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, laboratory phonology, and morphology in collaboration with faculty and students in allied fields. Our work incorporates contemporary issues and practices in these areas. Our masters programs are designed to integrate students into the state-of-the-art in linguistic research during the course of their program.

At Rochester, cross-disciplinary, collaborative work is the norm. In past years our main allied fields have been in computer science and the cognitive sciences, with strong connections in related departments, such as *Biomedical Engineering* (BME) and departments at the Eastman School of Music. We are also a core member of Rochester's *Center for Language Sciences* (CLS), which provides research, training and collaboration opportunities for students and faculty involved in language research. Each of the Master's programs — MA in Linguistics, MA in Language Documentation and Description, and MS in Computational Linguistics — is designed to maximize the possibilities of this collaborative environment.

Linguistics graduate students are housed in the Department of Linguistics as their primary affiliation. Our graduate students have access to the departmental labs in the Department of Linguistics. The Department houses a phonetics lab, an eye-tracking lab, a quantitative semantics lab, and a computational linguistics lab. These labs provide space for student and faculty research.

2 Linguistics Masters Plans

The department of Linguistics offers two general paths of study. The principal difference between them is that under one plan (Plan A) a thesis is required, while under the other (Plan B) a thesis is not required. Students may not switch from Plan A to Plan B (or vice versa) without written approval from the associate dean of graduate studies.

Both Plan A and Plan B students will complete three Core Courses. For the Plan A students, two or three of the *core courses* are replaced by the relevant advanced courses, in consultation with their advisor.

2.1 Plan B (“Traditional Track”)

Plan B is the traditional track for Masters students. Students in Plan B **will complete 32 credit hours** of coursework during the first three semesters and write their MA essay in the final semester. **At least 18 hours** of the coursework must be in the student's principal department, namely Linguistics. Plan B is mainly intended for students who still need to take the majority of the linguistics core classes rather than coming in with an extensive linguistics background and a research project in mind.

Students in Plan B will complete:

- Twelve credits of coursework during the first semester
- Twelve credits of coursework in the second semester
- Eight credits of coursework in the third semester¹
- A master's essay during the final semester

Students in Plan B have the option to get credit for their research as an “independent study”. Total credit for research, reading, and the master's essay may not exceed six hours.

2.2 Plan A (“Research Track”)

Plan A is set up for a student who will enter the program with a very strong background that has prepared them for engaging in research in linguistics. This student will have a research project in mind and has contacted relevant faculty to work with them. Students who wish to pursue this track will have a research project in mind and are strongly encouraged to identify and contact a

¹To maintain full-time status, students may need to supplement these eight credits with research or teaching assistantships.

faculty member who may work with them prior to applying for the program. Students are accepted into Plan A in consultation with a faculty member. In the application, the student should indicate their intent to follow Plan A, discuss research goals in their cover letter and submit a linguistics paper as a writing sample.

Students in Plan A will complete:

- Twelve credits of coursework during the first semester
- Eight credits of coursework and four credits of research in the second semester
- Four credits of coursework and four credits of research in the third semester
- A master's thesis during the final semester

Students may enroll for up to eight credits of research to complete a thesis.

2.3 Prerequisites

Admission into the Masters programs may be contingent on the prior completion of prerequisite courses ensuring the necessary background to take courses in our Masters programs. These courses are linguistics courses for the Linguistics MA degrees, and linguistics and computer science courses for the MS in Computational Linguistics. We consider the completion of these courses, or their equivalent, necessary to the success of students enrolled in our programs. Please consult the descriptions of the Masters programs in this document for information about prerequisite courses.

Keep in mind that these courses do not count towards a degree in our degree programs. They do not need to be taken at the University of Rochester, but they need to be equivalent to the prerequisite courses. For questions about course equivalency please contact the Graduate Program Director

2.4 Teaching Assistantship Opportunities

Opportunities may arise for graduate students to serve as Teaching Assistants. Service as a Teaching Assistant has in the past been useful for students in their 3rd semester for the purposes of maintaining their full-time status.

3 Masters Programs

3.1 MA in Linguistics

Rochester's MA in Linguistics provides students with a foundation in all of the core areas of linguistics. Advanced courses in subfields allow the student to develop depth in one or more specific areas of linguistics. The MA in Linguistics prepares students for further work at the PhD level in linguistics or related fields or for employment in teaching or industry.

NEED REORGANIZATION INTO CORE COURSES, TRACKS, ETC.****

Phonetics/Phonology:

LIN 410: Introduction to Language Sound Systems (Fall)

LIN 426: Morphology (Fall)

LIN 427: Topics in Phonetics and Phonology

Morphology:

LIN 426: Morphology (Fall)

LIN 405: Historical

LIN 420: Syntax and/or 428, Lexical Semantics

Syntax:

LIN 420: Grammatical Systems

LIN 460: Syntactic Theory

LIN 461, Phrase Structure Grammars, and/or 462, Experimental Syntax

Semantics/Pragmatics:

LIN 425, Semantic Analysis and/or 428, Lexical Semantics

LIN 465, Formal Semantics and/or 468, Computational Semantics and/or 466, Pragmatics

Computational courses for linguistic MA students:

LIN 461, Phrase Structure Grammars

LIN 450, Data Science for Linguistics

LIN 468, Computational Semantics

3.2 MS in Computational Linguistics

The Computational Linguistics MS program at Rochester trains students to be conversant both in the analysis of language and in computational techniques applied to natural language. The curriculum consists of courses in Linguistics and Computer Science for a total of 32 credit hours.

Graduates from the Computational Linguistics MS program will be prepared for both further training at the PhD level in Computer Science and Linguistics and Computational Linguistics positions in industry. A growing number of companies such as Google, Amazon.com, Nuance, LexisNexis, Oracle and many others are searching for employees with advanced degrees in Computational Linguistics for positions ranging from speech recognition technology to improving translation systems to developing better models of language understanding.

Coursework The curriculum consists of courses in linguistics and computer science, in roughly a 50/50 mix, for a total of 32 credit hours. Four courses (16 credits) are required in linguistics and four courses (16 credits) in computer science. The degree further requires a culminating special written project on a topic relevant to the student's interest and in consultation with individual advisors. The degree can typically be completed in three full-time semesters.

3.2.1 Linguistics Courses

Prerequisites Students are required to have completed the following prerequisite course, or its equivalent.

LIN 110: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis

Within linguistics, students will work with an adviser to create a "track" for their coursework in one of three areas:

Sound structure (LIN 410, 427, 510)

Grammatical structure (LIN 420, 460, 461, 462, 520)

Meaning (425, 465, 466, 468, 525, 535)

Students will be encouraged to take LIN 450 and LIN 501 as it suits their programs.

Required At least one of the following:

LIN 410: Introduction to Language Sound Systems

LIN 420: Introduction to Grammatical Systems

LIN 425: Introduction to Semantic Analysis

Plus at least two from the following (these course may have prerequisites):

LIN 427: Topics in Phonetics and Phonology

LIN 450: Data Science for Linguistics

LIN 460: Syntactic Theory

LIN 461: Phrase Structure Grammar

LIN 462: Topics in Experimental Syntax

LIN 465: Formal Semantics

LIN 466: Pragmatics

LIN 468: Computational Semantics

LIN 501: Methods in Linguistic Research

LIN 520: Syntax

LIN 525: Graduate Semantics

LIN 527: Topics in Phonetics and Phonology

LIN 535: Formal Pragmatics

3.2.2 Computer Science Courses

Prerequisites Students are required to have completed the following prerequisite courses, or its equivalents, for the Computational Linguistics program.

CS 171: The Science of Programming

CS 172: The Science of Data Structures

CS 173: Computation and Formal Systems

MTH 150: Discrete Math

MTH 165: Linear Algebra with Differential Equations

Required Students must take two of the following three courses for the MS in Computational Linguistics.

LIN 424: Introduction to Computational Linguistics

CS 447: Natural Language Processing

CS 448: Statistical Speech and Language Processing

Plus at least two of the following:

CS 440: Data Mining

CS 442: Artificial Intelligence

CS 444: Logical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

CS 446: Machine Learning

3.3 MA in Language Documentation and Description (LDD)

The Department of Linguistics offers a new MA in *the theory and practice of language documentation and description* focusing on courses that provide training in linguistics and in the practice, methodology and technology of LDD. Language documentation encompasses a group of activities centered on the collection of naturally occurring as well as experimentally elicited primary data, such as audio and video recordings and written language data; language description uses this and other sources of data to analyze linguistic structures that underlie language and cognitive categories.

The enterprise of LDD is important for our understanding of the human language capacity in its diverse forms, by creating records of languages that may soon be extinct. Its importance is heightened by the loss of linguistic diversity worldwide, which represents a tremendous and irreplaceable loss of human knowledge. Language documentation and description efforts can provide the foundation for language grammars, dictionary projects, education and language revitalization materials, and the building of large language corpora, as well as in related fields such as ethnomusicology and ethnobotany and allied fields such as computational linguistics. Emerging technologies provide new tools for the analysis of complex language data. Our program aims to provide students with the preparation needed to embark on language documentation and description projects, to develop skills transferable to other fields where the collection and analysis of complex language data and working in small language communities may be relevant. Some of these fields may include law and human rights, community activists, health organizations, Google and translation work on minority language groups, NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations), Indigenous Rights activists, and museums among many others. Language is fundamental to human communication and cognition, as is the diversity it encompasses.

The Language Documentation and Description MA program (LDD) is a 32-credit program designed to be completed in two years, as either a non-thesis (Plan B) or thesis (Plan A) degree program.

Core Courses: 12 Credits Choose three of the following core courses:

LIN 410: Introduction to Language Sound Systems (Fall)

LIN 420: Introduction to Grammatical Systems (Spring)

LIN 425: Introduction to Semantic Analysis (Fall)

LIN 426: Morphology (Fall)

Track Courses: 12 Credits

LIN 470: Tools for Language Documentation (Fall)

LIN 471: Field Methods in Linguistic Description 1 (Spring)

LIN 472: Field Methods in Linguistic Description 2 (Fall)

Advanced Electives: 8 Credits Offered yearly:

LIN 427: Topics in Phonetics and Phonology

LIN 450: Data Science for Linguistics

LIN 465: Formal Semantics, or LIN 466: Introduction to Pragmatics

LIN 460: Syntactic Theory, or LIN 461: Phrase Structure Grammar, or LIN 462: Experimental Syntax

Offered in alternate years:

LIN 405: Historical Linguistics

LIN 428: Lexical Semantics

LIN 468: Computational Semantics

LIN 501: Methods in Linguistic Research

Graduate seminars, one offered approximately each semester:

LIN 510: Topics in Phonetics

LIN 520: Syntax

LIN 525: Graduate Semantics

LIN 535: Formal Pragmatics

Students entering program with stronger background in discussion with their advisor may substitute appropriate advanced electives for core courses

4 Administrative Guidelines

Full details on all policies can be found on the ASE Grad Website:

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/gradstudies/policies/index.html>

4.1 Registration

A full-time graduate student is defined as a student who registers for at least 12 hours of credit for the semester, or doing work equivalent to that of an assistant who registers for at least 9 hours of credit for the semester.

All students holding teaching or research assistantships must register for at least nine credit hours (but not more than twelve credit hours) in order to be considered full-time. Students not holding assistantships must register for at least twelve credit hours (but not more than sixteen credit hours) in order to maintain full-time status.

Graduate students must register for 400 level courses when available (not 200 level as these are designated for undergraduates). As a graduate student, pre-requisites are flexible, courses taken at other universities may not exactly correlate with UR courses. Graduate students are able to register for any 400 level course, but it should be determined by the advisor if they have the appropriate background / knowledge to successfully complete the course. If it is recommended by the advisor that they register for a 100 or 200 level course, they need to audit or sit-in on this course and get appropriate approvals to do so (see audit and unofficial attendance details below).

Registration must be completed within two weeks from the first day of classes, or a late registration fee will be charged.

Students are not required to maintain full-time status in order to complete the program; however, a lapse in full-time status may impact (i) eligibility for health insurance, (ii) the continuance of student loans, and (iii) visa status for international status.

4.2 Continuation of Registration

Matriculated graduate students must maintain continuous registration (Fall and Spring) until they are awarded degrees, withdraw from the degree program, or are dropped from the degree program by the University. Students maintain continuous registration by registering for credit courses or one of the following courses: 985, 895, 995, 899, 999 (continuation of enrollment status). This status is utilized as follows:

- It is considered full-time enrollment for all reporting purposes and satisfies government requirements for F-1 and J-1 international students to maintain full-time enrollment.
- It is for students who are not enrolled in full-time coursework but are, nonetheless, working full time on their degree requirements.
- It includes a relevant fee (often a dissertation fee), as well as other fees associated with full-time enrollment.

- Students are registered with specific reference to a faculty advisor, who is ultimately responsible for monitoring their full-time effort.
- The student has either completed all requirements for the degree other than the thesis or is enrolled in final coursework in addition to the work necessary for the degree requirements
- Students are eligible for federal loans.
- Students are eligible for University health insurance.

4.3 Dropping Courses

Dropping credit hours after the seventh week of a semester or retroactive after the conclusion of the semester is not permitted if the change affects the student's time status (full-time status changes to part-time status) for that particular semester. That is, if a student drops a class another class must be taken as a replacement, or the student may lose status.

4.4 Taking Additional Classes not for Credit

Auditing a Class Auditing a course within Arts, Sciences and Engineering related to a degree program is permitted for full-time and part-time graduate students when suggested by the faculty advisor and approved by the course instructor. **There is a fee to audit a course that is not covered by tuition scholarship (AY17-18 fee is \$184 per credit hour).** The audited course will appear on the student's transcript provided the student attends throughout the course. Auditing a course is worth zero credit hours and a grade is not issued. Students who do wish to receive credit for such a course may do so by (1) changing the registration in the office of the graduate registrar prior to the end of the sixth full week of classes in a given semester, and (2) paying the required tuition for the course. Note that once a course has been audited, it cannot be repeated for credit without prior approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Unofficial Course Attendance Full-time graduate students and post-docs are allowed to sit in on graduate classes with the approval of the faculty member teaching the course. All other students (i.e., non-matriculated and part-time students) require permission from the Dean of Graduate Studies in order to sit in on classes. When such permission is granted, these students may not participate fully in the class. This means that non-matriculated and part-time students who sit in on a class may not take exams and may not receive an "unofficial" grade for the course. In no case will retroactive credit be provided to a student who sits in on classes.

4.5 Grades

Grades for graduate students are reported on one of two systems. One is A (excellent), A-, B+, B (good), B-, C (poor), and E (failure). The other is S (satisfactory) and E (failure). The grade S may not be used for any student in a class in which the other students are graded on the A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, E scale.

Minimum grades for courses or research work carrying graduate credit are C or S. C is, however, considered to be a failing grade for any student who is on probation. Moreover, a student who receives the grade of C in each of two courses, or for eight hours of work toward the degree (even if in only one course), will thereby have raised the question of the adequacy of his or her academic performance. In those circumstances, the student's record must be reviewed by the associate dean of graduate studies in consultation with the student and the program director. Individual schools may have established higher minimum standards.

The following grades are also assigned to courses: I, assignments not completed, and W, withdrawal from a course. Courses or research for which a student has registered and which are graded I (incomplete) must be completed within the time period stated by the professor. Matriculated graduate students in Arts, Sciences & Engineering should refer to Grading in the Arts, Sciences & Engineering section of the Official Bulletin on Graduate Studies. It is the responsibility of the student to complete the work; the professor may replace the grade of incomplete with IE (failure) or with a passing grade at any time. Retroactive dropping of credit hours after the conclusion of a semester is not permitted if the change affects the student's time status (full-time status changes to part-time status) for that particular semester.

4.6 Student self-reviews

Students are required to complete and submit a yearly self-review of their progress and performance in the program. In special cases reviews may also be requested at the end of the fall semester. The forms are available online here. These forms will be reviewed by faculty at the end of the term or year. Written feedback will be given to the students.

4.7 Academic Probation

Minimum grades for courses or research work carrying graduate credit are C or S. However, a student can get credit for only one C during the course of their graduate studies.

Getting placed on academic probation A student who receives the grade of C in one or more courses or the grade of E in one or more courses will be considered to have an unsatisfactory record and will be automatically placed on academic probation. (Note: Students who receive their first and only C in their final semester are not subject to academic probation.) A student on academic probation may not be awarded a graduate degree. Students in extenuating circumstances may appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Removal from academic probation A student will be removed from academic probation if the student completes 12 semester hours of graduate credit with no grade lower than B-. If the student receives a grade below B-, the student is subject to removal from the program. In such a case, the student must petition the Dean of Graduate Studies to remain in the program. This petition must be approved by the program director or department chair, and it must include a discussion of the reason for the poor performance and a plan for improved academic performance.

5 Conduct

The Department of Linguistics encourages the free exchange of information and ideas, with the aim of promoting dialogue and providing a platform for the dissemination of knowledge reflective of the values of the language science community at Rochester. Disagreement and argumentation are welcome and important to discourse but must be done within the contingent rules of respectful behavior, which include, but are not limited to, tolerance of differences, reason and open-mindedness.

Unethical conduct Unethical conduct of any kind, including academic dishonesty or misconduct involving scientific or professional behavior, will be grounds for disciplinary action. The Graduate Bulletin reviews University rules and regulations in the section titled “Standards of Conduct for Graduate Students”—including those for academic honesty, as well due process in reviews considering disciplinary action.

5.1 Non-Academic Probation

The faculty may recommend that a student be placed on departmental probation instead of, or in addition to, college academic probation. Departmental probation may be recommended if a student is not making satisfactory research progress or is not, in the judgment of the faculty, otherwise meeting the departmental standards for potentially being awarded the MA, MS or Ph.D. degree. Additional criteria for placement on probation include, but are not limited to, a persistent and substantial pattern of:

1. Inconsistent attendance of classes.
2. Insufficient participation in classes designated by instructors as requiring such participation.
3. Discourteous or inconsiderate behavior, including verbal behavior, toward faculty, staff, peers, research participants, or consultants
4. Lack of civility in classroom discourse.
5. Performance in professional activities that is below expectation for the student’s level of training.

6. Behavior that interferes with effective functioning as a student, research scientist, or professional in training, including:
 - Unreceptiveness to supervisory feedback.
 - Difficulties in working collaboratively with supervisors or colleagues.
 - Chronic tardiness in meeting academic and professional responsibilities.

Removal from departmental probation Students placed on probation or for whom dismissal is recommended will receive a written report from the Departmental Chair or the Chair's representative. This report will include a statement of the reasons for the action, any applicable deadlines. For students being placed on probation, the report will include a statement of the conditions that must be met to be removed from that status.

If progress continues to be unsatisfactory, it may be recommended that the student be terminated from graduate study.

Review of decision By written request to the Chair of the Department, students may request a review of a decision for departmental probation or for dismissal, or students may submit a written statement for inclusion in their file. Although it is the usual practice to place students on probation at least one semester prior to dismissal, the department faculty may move for immediate dismissal if the circumstances so warrant.

Reinstatement If students have met the conditions of their probation, the faculty will vote to reinstate them. A majority vote of the faculty is required for reinstatement.

Students whose performance is judged satisfactory according to the above standards will receive an oral or written report of the evaluation from the Graduate Program Director or the Department Chair.

The Department wishes its students to succeed in terms of academic performance, research ability, and placement in their chosen profession: Any student having academic difficulty or problems of any nature (financial, personal or professional) that impede their progress toward the degree is strongly encouraged to discuss them with their mentor/academic advisor, or with area faculty, and to seek out resource people in the Department or in the University who are able to provide help for those problems.

Faculty oversight In addition to this formal evaluation procedure, problems or difficulties concerning graduate students are generally considered by the appropriate group of faculty as they arise. This includes, at least and unless warranted otherwise, the student's advisor, the Graduate Program Director and Department Chair.

5.2 Use of Department and University equipment

The research labs and computers and equipment in the labs is the property of the Department of Linguistics and the University of Rochester.

Computers in the labs and equipment such as audio and video recorders, microphones, headphones, cables and adapters are **shared resources** and are offered to those working in the labs on research projects or with faculty by a faculty member.

For portable equipment, such as, but not limited to, digital recorders, students who take this equipment out of the labs are taking full responsibility for the borrowed equipment in their possession.

Students are required to adhere to all instructions of use given to them by the faculty. Those who do not adhere to instructions of use will lose privileges of use.

Responsibility While in a student's possession, the repair or replacement of any damage to or loss of equipment is the responsibility of the student.

6 Completion and Deadlines

6.1 Submission of Program of Studies (POS)

Each full-time master's student must submit a proposed program of study to the associate dean of graduate studies before the end of the second term. Each part-time master's student must submit a proposed program of study upon the completion 12 hours of graduate credit or as determined by the school.

The program of study, to be formulated with the assistance of the faculty advisor and approved by the associate dean, is expected to form a consistent plan of work pursued with a definite aim. Courses in another department closely related to, but outside the student's major field of interest should not ordinarily exceed 12 hours of credit, and the candidate must have had thorough undergraduate preparation for such work. The program must include at least 20 hours taken at the University of Rochester as a matriculated student in a graduate degree program. Other than in approved combined undergraduate-graduate degree programs, no course completed before the candidate has received the bachelor's degree may be included in the graduate program.

The Linguistics Administrator coordinates with the student and relevant faculty advisor to complete the POS and submit it to AS & E Graduate Office on behalf of the student. Programs of Study can be amended with Graduate Program Change Notice forms.

6.2 Time Limit for MS or MA Degree

A candidate must complete all the requirements for the master's degree within five years from the time of initial registration for graduate study, and must maintain continuous enrollment for each term after matriculation.

6.3 Requirements for the MA or MS Degree under Plan A

Plan A requires the writing of a thesis (referred to in the University Handbook as a "dissertation") and the passing of an oral examination on the thesis.

Program of Study for Plan A A thesis is required in each program for the Master of Arts or Master of Science degree under Plan A. The thesis and the research upon which it is based represent a minimum of 6 and ordinarily a maximum of 12 credit hours in reading or research. In certain cases, and with the prior approval of the associate dean of graduate studies, the credit for thesis research may exceed 12 hours.

Preparation of MS or MA Thesis The thesis must show independent work based in part upon original material. It must present evidence that the candidate possesses ability to plan study over a prolonged period and to present in an orderly fashion the results of this study. The thesis should display the student's thorough acquaintance with the literature of a limited field.

"Preparing Your Thesis: A Manual for Graduate Students" is also used to prepare master's thesis. Copies of the booklet are available from the office of the associate dean of graduate studies or on the University's website: www.rochester.edu/theses.

Registration of MS or MA Thesis The thesis must be registered with the office of the associate dean of graduate studies and copies given to the members of the examining committee at least one week prior to the oral examination. The final examination must be held prior to the date set by the associate dean of graduate studies.

Submission of Copies The school or program may require printed and/or electronic copies of the final thesis as a condition of completion of the degree program.

Final Oral Examination for MS or MA under Plan A Each candidate must pass a final oral examination before a committee of at least three members of the faculty appointed by the associate dean of graduate studies (four for the School of Medicine and Dentistry). One member will be from a department other than that in which the student has done the major portion of the work. No candidate may appear for the final examination until permission is received from the

faculty advisor to proceed. The examination will not be given until at least a week has elapsed after registration of the thesis. The final examination may be preceded by other examinations, oral or written, as designated by the department/program or school concerned.

Re-Examination A student who fails the final oral examination may request reexamination not less than four months later. No student will be allowed to take the examination a third time without a recommendation from the department/program in which the major work was done and the approval of the Committee on Graduate Studies of the school.

6.4 Requirements for the MA or MS Degree under Plan B

Program of Study for Plan B The degrees Master of Arts and Master of Science under Plan B are awarded for successful completion of at least 30 hours of graduate credit, or more if required in the student's program of study. At least 18 hours of the coursework must be in the student's principal department, except for interdisciplinary programs which have been approved by the relevant school's Committee on Graduate Studies. Individual schools may set higher requirements.

If the department requires a course of directed individual study leading to the writing of a master's essay, this course is in addition to the minimum requirement of courses numbered 400 or over. It may carry up to four hours of credit.

Ordinarily, research credit is not part of a Plan B master's program; but, with the approval of the associate dean of graduate studies, up to six hours of research credit may be granted. Total credit for research, reading, and the master's essay may not exceed six hours.

Directed Study for the Master's Essay The master's essay, required by some departments/programs, must present evidence of the student's ability to present a well-organized report on a topic of significance in the field. The writing of this essay is under the supervision of one member of the student's principal department/program, and must be approved by one additional member designated by the chair of the department or by the program director for interdisciplinary programs.

Comprehensive Examination Most Plan B programs of study require a comprehensive examination in the field of specialization. It may be written, oral, or both, and is conducted by at least two faculty members. Students failing the general examination may be allowed to take another examination during the following semester but not later than one year after the original examination. More than one repetition of the examination is not permitted.

7 Department Administration

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