

## **Milestone Requirements** **Last Updated August 2016**

*In addition to courses, master's students must complete additional milestones as noted below.*

### **M.A. Research Track**

#### **(1) Research Apprenticeship**

One of the most important goals of the program is to prepare students to conduct original research in the field of education. This training is provided continually throughout the graduate program and commences with a research apprenticeship upon a student's admission to the program. During the first year, each student is required to participate in a research apprenticeship under the guidance of his/her faculty advisor or another qualified faculty member. The purpose of the apprenticeship is to acquaint the student with the hands-on conduct of research by participating in the research activities of a faculty mentor. The apprenticeship experience provides the opportunity to learn how educational research questions may be formulated and investigated and how the pursuit of research is tied to the needs of the educational community. As part of the apprenticeship experience, the student will also learn how faculty researchers evaluate the substance and quality of their research through means such as peer review of research proposals, publications, and other forms of dissemination; and through feedback from educational practitioners and policy makers.

Students are expected to negotiate placement in a research apprenticeship with a faculty member during their first year of enrollment in the emphasis. This requirement can be fulfilled through work as a research assistant, through a joint project with a faculty member, or through a variety of other arrangements. Upon completion of this apprenticeship, students should insure that the Completion of Research Apprenticeship form is obtained from the Department of Education Program Office, signed by the supervising faculty member, and filed there.

#### **(2) Research Project**

Students can choose to do a Master's Thesis or Research Project to receive their Master's degree. This entails different paperwork depending upon whether the student wants to obtain the Master's degree through **Master's Plan 1** (thesis option) or **Master's Plan 2** (research project option) as described in the Graduate Division's [Graduate Handbook](#). Students should discuss with their advisor and should consult with the Student Affairs Office which Plan they wish to pursue and the procedures that will need to be followed. Most students within the Gevirtz School choose Master's Plan 2.

**Master's Plan 1** requires students to prepare a thesis that is signed by the three M.A. committee members and is filed with the Graduate Division. Prior to defending the thesis, the student should notify the Student Affairs Office about the composition of the master's committee for paperwork processing and approval by the Graduate Division's Academic Services.

**Master's Plan 2** requires students to carry out a research project. The section on the Independent Research Project in the Ph.D. description describes the guidelines for doing a research project. The examination option should be discussed with the advisor. In either case, students must defend their project and obtain signatures from the three members of the M.A. committee on the Completion of the Independent Research Project form. This form can be obtained from the Department of Education Program Office and filed there.

## **M.A. Professional Track**

### **(1) Research Project or Comprehensive Exam**

The professional master's gives the choice of either a Research Project (described above) or a Comprehensive Exam designed by the student's faculty committee. A Comprehensive Examination (a content exam) also satisfies the Graduate Division's requirement for Strand II of the Master's degree. Appropriate paperwork should be obtained from the Student Affairs Office prior to taking the comprehensive exam. The committee, in conjunction with the student, will determine the nature of the Master's Comprehensive Examination. An oral component of the Comprehensive Examination is required.

### **Additional Information**

#### **Degree Check List**

A Degree Check List that summarizes all of these requirements is given at the end of this handbook.

#### **Committee Membership**

The M.A. committee consists of at least three UC Academic Senate members, with a tenure-track faculty member from the student's major (home) department serving as chair or co-chair. At least two members of every master's committee must be tenure-track faculty. The majority of the three members shall be from the student's UCSB major (home) department. Recommendation of the appointment of additional members to the thesis committee is at the discretion of the department.

#### **M.A. Time To Degree**

The M.A. degree is normally completed in 4 to 6 quarters by a full-time student who is not working outside of the University. Students who take fewer than 12 units per quarter or who work full-time off campus may require more time. The Graduate Council has established that students should complete the Master's degree within 4 years. Students who combine the Research M.A. (Strand I) with a subsequent Ph.D. in the Department should complete their graduate studies in 6 years.