

Members of Master's Thesis Committees

Graduate Faculty is defined to consist of all tenure-track or tenured faculty appointed at the Assistant, Associate, or Professor rank. Anyone not meeting this definition, e.g., research faculty, must be approved by the graduate school for each committee of which they wish to be part.

Affiliate Graduate Faculty membership may be granted by the Office of Graduate Studies Dean to individuals whose skills or expertise meet criteria established by the College. Affiliate Graduate Faculty membership is in effect for a specified period of time and specific purposes. Affiliate members may be eligible to teach graduate courses, to serve on masters, specialist, and doctoral level committees, to direct master's and specialist's level committees, and to co-direct doctoral level committees, at the discretion of the College. Emeritus Professors and retired or recently resigned professors may also be appointed as Affiliate Graduate Faculty with the approval of the College and Office of Graduate Studies Dean.

Master's Degree Procedures

Non-thesis option:

- Non-thesis Master's degree can be awarded to students who have successfully completed all required non-thesis Master's course work with a $GPA \geq 3.0$.

Committee Members (Thesis Option):

- Minimum of three Graduate Faculty or Affiliate Graduate Faculty;
- Two members must be Physics Graduate or Affiliate Graduate Faculty;
- The Major Professor must be Physics Graduate Faculty and a co-Major Professor (if applicable) must be Graduate or Affiliate Graduate Faculty ;
- The third member needn't be from Physics, but should have some expertise, broadly defined, relevant to the student's research area
- Persons desiring to serve on a Master's Committee who are not defined as Graduate Faculty or Affiliate Graduate Faculty (e.g. visiting faculty, professionals, research faculty) must submit a curriculum vitae and be approved by the Physics Department, College and Office of Graduate Studies.

Thesis Option:

- All required thesis Master's degree course work must be completed with a $GPA \geq 3.0$;
- A written thesis, conforming to the guidelines of the university, is required. The thesis is to be defended before the Committee;
- All Committee members must attend the thesis defense;
- In the event a member cannot attend in person, participation via a speakerphone or video conference must be arranged;
- A minimum of two members in person, including the major Professor(s), is required;
- If an unforeseen situation arises that would prevent a Committee member attending the defense, the Major Professor(s) should contact the Office of Graduate Studies for guidance and/or approval of the defense;
- The thesis defense is open to the public and as such, must meet the requirements of the Sunshine Laws for the State of Florida. The Committee deliberation is not public.

Time Limitations

- The Master's degree must be completed within five years from the student's admission date into the Master's graduate program unless a time-limit extension has been granted by the Office of Graduate Studies.