

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE
Department of Exercise and Sport Science

The Department of Exercise and Sport Science offers the Master of Science with a thesis or on-thesis option. The M.S. degree is designed to develop a high level of knowledge and competence in the professional programs associated with the discipline. The degree is a multi-purpose degree that can prepare a physical educator for a teaching mission or for service in an area outside the field of education. This degree, particularly with the thesis option, also serves as a prerequisite for advance work at the doctoral level.

Specific Degree Requirements

- A. Thesis Option (Thirty-30 hours to include thesis)
 - 1. Core Requirements (12 hours)
 - a. 6310 – Motor Learning
 - b. 6315 – Research Methods in Kinesiology and Physical Education
 - c. 6316 – Data Analysis
 - d. 6333 – Advanced Physiology of Exercise
 - 2. Thesis Research (6 hours)
 - a. 63-- - Thesis Research I
 - b. 63-- - Thesis Research II

(The procedures for selecting and writing a thesis will be the same as prescribed in the current Graduate Bulletin).
 - 3. Electives (12 hours) – Selected with approval of graduate advisor to include not more than six (6) hours from an outside field.

- B. Non-Thesis Option (Thirty-six 36 hours)
 - 1. Core Requirements (12 hours) – Same as for thesis option
 - 2. Electives (24 hour) – Selected with approval of graduate advisor not to exceed more than nine hours from an outside field.

- C. Courses in Exercise and Sport Science that can be used as electives.
 - 5310 – Secondary Methods and Materials for Physical Education
 - 5331 – Care and Prevention of Exercise and Sports Injuries
 - 5363 – Evaluation and Assessment in Adapted Physical Education
 - X5371 – Workshop in Physical Education
 - 6300 – Independent Study in Kinesiology and Physical Education
 - 6320 – Organization and Development of School and Community Recreation Programs
 - 6330 – Foundations of Kinesiology and Physical Education
 - 6334 – Contemporary Coaching Problems
 - 6340 – Curriculum Construction in Physical Education
 - 6350 – Elementary School Physical Education Programs
 - 6360 – Measurements in Health, Kinesiology and Physical Education
 - 6370 – Athletic Administration

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Admission and Retention

Admission to graduate study and admission to candidacy for the Master of Science degree in Kinesiology and Physical Education will be the same as stated in the current Graduate Bulletin.

Retention in the program will be basically the same as stated in the current Graduate Bulletin, but will feature a “maximum of three (3) C’s restriction.” Explanation: Master of Science degree candidates majoring in physical education will not be allowed to earn more than three (3) C’s recorded for graduate work. The fourth “C” earned by the Master of Science degree candidate will result in dismissal from the graduate program.

Additional Requirements

A. M.S. without Thesis

The student will be required to pass a comprehensive examination. The examination will be administered each spring semester and during the first summer session each year. To be eligible to take the examination, the student must be within six (6) hours, or less, of reaching his degree requirements when he completes the courses in which he is enrolled.

Preparation of the comprehensive examination will be the responsibility of the graduate advisor. The examination will consist of two (2) questions each from the required core: EXSS 6310-Motor Learning, EXSS 6315-Research Methods, EXSS 6316-Data Analysis, and EXSS 6333-Physiology and Exercise, plus one question each from two (2) elective courses to be selected by the student. The written exam will be followed by defense of the examination no later than two weeks following the date the examination was administered. It will be the responsibility of the student to advise the department chairperson of his/her intent to take the examination.

B. M.S. with Thesis

In addition to the comprehensive examination explained above, the thesis candidate must complete and submit a Master’s Thesis in accordance with graduate thesis requirements in the current Graduate Bulletin. After the thesis has been read and approved, and before the candidate is recommended to the Dean of the Graduate School for graduation, the candidate will meet with the student’s committee for an oral defense of the thesis. A majority of the student’s committee must approve the thesis and its defense. If approval is denied, the candidate will not be recommended for graduation. In this event, the student may be re-examined at a later period, no sooner than three months after the initial examination. The oral defense of the thesis will be open to faculty and students.