This handbook is intended to be read in conjunction with the Graduate Catalog: http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php and the College of Graduate Studies Master’s Student Handbook http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/
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SECTION I. BIOLOGY AND FISHERIES & MARICULTURE PROGRAMS

Introduction

This handbook provides guidance to students applying for and enrolled in either the Biology (BIOL) master’s degree (M.S.) program or the Fisheries and Mariculture (FAMA) master’s (M.S.) degree program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC). It contains information about the requirements for successfully completing the degree, the course of study, selecting an advisor and a graduate committee, choosing whether to pursue the thesis or professional (non-thesis or internship options) course of study, and the final oral examination. This handbook should be used in conjunction with the Graduate Catalog: http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php. The BIOL & FAMA Handbook lists requirements specific to the BIOL and/or FAMA programs that are above and beyond what is described in the catalog.

The appendix contains detailed instructions for preparing the thesis or non-thesis/professional paper.

The M.S. in Biology

The Master of Science in Biology is designed for graduate students who wish to become knowledgeable leaders and professionals in fields of study that range from organismal biology and ecology to the biomedical sciences. The M.S. in Biology is a very flexible program that allows the course of study to be tailored to the student’s interests and career goals.

The goal of the M.S. in Biology is:

- To provide graduates with a broad understanding of the biological sciences as well as education, training, and skills in a specific discipline.
- To foster creative independence and critical thinking in graduates so they are competent to practice in and contribute to a variety of professions and fields of scholarship.

The expectations of our students are to:

- Gain expertise in specific biological field including knowledge of the relevant scientific literature related to their thesis or professional paper.
- Understand the scientific method and be able to design and conduct experiments.
- Be able to accurately describe (orally and in writing) biological research.

The M.S. in Fisheries and Mariculture

The Fisheries and Mariculture Program offers an M.S. degree with a choice of emphasis in either fisheries or mariculture. Faculty members supervise student research on topics ranging from fisheries ecology to habitat restoration and aquatic animal nutrition. Researchers use an array of quantitative research tools ranging from statistical analyses to molecular techniques to GIS. Our students learn the skills necessary for positions in both the public and private sectors of the fisheries and mariculture industries, particularly through the internship-intensive professional track option, and through a rigorous core curriculum combined with an intensive hands-on research or professional project.
The goal of the Fisheries and Mariculture M.S. program is to:

- Prepare graduate students for a career in either the private or public sector in fisheries, mariculture or aquaculture.

The expectations of our graduates are to:

- Exhibit knowledge (breadth and depth) in the fields of fisheries or mariculture
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct a thorough and complete survey of the relevant scientific literature pertaining to their approved topic of study.
- Demonstrate the ability to collect, organize and interpret data and produce a thesis or professional paper from an experiment, study or project.
- Develop technical writing and communication skills that will benefit them in their professional careers.

The BIOL or FAMA Student

Prospective students who wish to pursue a BIOL or FAMA M.S. degree should have strong life sciences backgrounds. Students accepted into the degree program will generally have undergraduate degrees in an area of the biological sciences (e.g., Biology, Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) with coursework that includes chemistry (i.e., general chemistry, organic chemistry and/or biochemistry). The BIOL and FAMA faculties welcome students from diverse academic paths as well as those who have some research experience.

Graduate study provides advanced, specialized training that strengthens academic and professional competence by broadening scientific horizons as well as development of a specific expertise. Graduate students must assume greater responsibility and exercise more individual initiative than was necessary as an undergraduate. The graduate faculty emphasize productive research, employ seminar methods more frequently, and anticipate class participation. To be successful in the master’s program, students must display commitment to independent study, must become familiar with past and current research, and must relate ongoing research to the investigations of other scholars.

Biology and Fisheries & Mariculture Administrative Staff

Department Chair: Joe Fox, Ph.D.
BIOL Program Coordinator: Kim Withers, Ph.D.
FAMA Program Coordinators: Jennifer Pollack, Ph.D. and John Scarpa, Ph.D.
TA Coordinator: David Grise, Ph.D.
Ronnie Emanuel
Ken Brown
Geri Fernandez

Get Connected

Most official college and program information for students is distributed on listservs. It is required that you join the graduate student listserv by going to http://www.sci.tamucc.edu/mailman/listinfo/scitech-gradstudents and filling out the form. Other listservs that may be of interest include:

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http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php and the College of Graduate Studies Master’s Student Handbook http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List address</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:marigrad-list@sci.tamucc.edu">marigrad-list@sci.tamucc.edu</a></td>
<td>Marine Science Graduate Student Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:opportunities-list@listserv.tamu.edu">opportunities-list@listserv.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Scholarships, internships, jobs, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:scitech-gradstudents@listserv.tamu.edu">scitech-gradstudents@listserv.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Science &amp; Engineering graduate students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION II. ADMISSION INFORMATION

BIOL and FAMA Program Admissions Criteria

Students seeking admission to a graduate degree program with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi must submit an admission application form, application fee, official transcripts, and program-specific supporting documents. All documents must be received by the College of Graduate Studies by the designated deadlines (see below).

College of Graduate Studies
6300 Ocean Dr., Unit 5843
Faculty Center, Suite 178
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

gradweb@tamucc.edu
Phone: 361.825.2177
Fax: 361.825.2775

Application Submission
To apply, complete the online Graduate Studies Application Form (preferred): http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/application.html

Specific information on University criteria, application procedures, fees, and additional requirements for international applications are found in the TAMUCC Graduate Catalog and the College of Graduate Studies Website: http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/how_to_apply.html

Program Requirements & Information
Below is a summary of the supporting documents required by the BIOL and FAMA program:

- Completed university graduate application form.
- An essay of about 1000 words describing educational and career goals, interests as they relate to the faculty in the BIOL or FAMA programs, and a list of faculty members contacted.
- Three letters of evaluation from people familiar with your scholarly potential.
- Transcripts of all previous undergraduate and/or graduate work (including transcript evaluations of all work done at foreign institutions)*.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores that are not more than 5 years old.
- Any relevant supplemental materials such as publications or resumes that include information about relevant experiences.
- International students have additional requirements as outlined in the TAMUCC Graduate Catalog. The BIOL and FAMA programs require TOEFL scores from ETS taken within two years of the date the application was received for students from countries where English is not the native language. See TAMUCC Graduate Catalog for additional information.

*To be considered official, all required postsecondary academic records must be submitted directly from the registrar’s office and bear the seal and signature of the registrar of the institution. In some foreign countries, the
controller of examinations or principal may certify academic records. Official English translations, not interpretations, are required from most countries.

It is the student’s responsibility to make sure that the application is complete by the deadline to assure full consideration. Acceptance into the BIOL or FAMA M.S. programs is competitive and based on consideration of all application materials. Students accepted into the program will typically have demonstrated an ability to succeed in an academically rigorous environment through high GPA and GRE scores. Relevant life experiences may also provide a substantial basis for consideration.

Students whose GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework is less than 3.0 (4.0 scale) and/or whose GRE scores are below the 50th percentile are typically not competitive. Even if accepted, students in this situation are not eligible for support (i.e., cannot be teaching or research assistants), including out-of-state tuition waiver. Students whose GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework is 2.5 or less (4.0 scale) will not be considered for admission.

A campus visit with personal interviews involving prospective faculty mentors is highly recommended. To schedule a visit, please contact:

Dr. Kim Withers  
BIOL Program Coordinator  
Kim.Withers@tamucc.edu  
361.825.5907

Dr. Jennifer Pollack  
FAMA Program Coordinator  
Jennifer.Pollack@tamucc.edu  
361.825.2041

Dr. John Scarpa  
FAMA Program Coordinator  
John.Scarpa@tamucc.edu  
361.825.2369

or

Mr. Ken Brown  
Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Kenneth.Brown@tamucc.edu  
361.825.3907

Program Deadlines

The BIOL and FAMA programs have two types of deadlines: 1) priority deadlines and 2) late or last decision date deadlines. All students should strive to meet the priority deadline because it is used to make decisions regarding funding of assistantships. All applications received after the priority deadline are considered “late” applications. Deadlines are earlier for international students because of the time required to process visa applications for international students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BIOL and FAMA APPLICATION DEADLINES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Applications (Domestic or International Students)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority deadline to receive complete applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision date for Priority deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Late Applications — International Students</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date to receive complete applications.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php and the College of Graduate Studies Master’s Student Handbook  
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http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php and the College of Graduate Studies Master’s Student Handbook
http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/

### Table: Decision Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Late Applications – Domestic Students</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision date for late applications</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last date for receipt of complete applications</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>March 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision date for late applications</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The acceptance process has two steps: 1) review and vote for acceptance by the BIOL and FAMA admissions committee, and 2) final and official acceptance by the College of Graduate Studies. The applicant will be notified of acceptance or rejection by the BIOL or FAMA Program Coordinator by email at the same time the College of Graduate Studies is notified. The student will receive official acceptance only by the College of Graduate Studies.

### Assistantships

Students seeking full consideration for fellowships or assistantships should have a completed application file submitted by the Priority Deadline (e.g., February 1 for Fall admission). However, applicants must apply separately for scholarships, assistantships, and fellowships at the College website: [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/gradfunding.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/gradfunding.html). Remuneration for assistantships at the master’s level are consistent regardless of whether a student is a teaching or research assistant and are currently set at $1300/month for 9-month, half-time (50%, 20 hours/week) appointments. Students are only eligible to work half-time.

After the priority deadline, any awards will be made on a first come, first served basis. Students who have received offers for fellowships or assistantships must notify their respective coordinator (BIOL Program Kim Withers; FAMA Coordinator Jennifer Pollack or John Scarpa) and the College of S&E TA Coordinator (David Grise) of their acceptance by April 15 for Fall admission; November 15 for Spring admission, if assistantships are available otherwise, the University will assume that the offer has been rejected and will make offers to other deserving students.

Admission to the program is decided independently of financial awards. Students must first be accepted into the program before financial awards can be considered. For details regarding graduate assistantships, refer to the CGS Graduate Assistantship Handbook at [link to follow soon].

### Teaching Assistantships

Teaching assistantships are available each year through the College of Science and Engineering; see [http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/gradfunding.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/gradfunding.html).

The State of Texas requires international graduate students whose native language is not English to obtain English proficiency certification before serving as graduate teaching assistants. See CGS Graduate Assistantship Handbook for details [link to follow soon].
Research Assistantships

A limited number of research assistantships are available through research institutes or centers and individual faculty members; consult with institute or center directors and individual faculty members to identify these opportunities.

Graduate Orientation

The College of Graduate Studies hosts a general Graduate Student Orientation every Fall and Spring semester. For information on this event please visit http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/orientation.html. The BIOL and FAMA programs schedule a Program Requirements Orientation separately to ensure that all new graduate students in the program are able to attend. In addition, for graduate students with teaching assistantships, training is required prior to the start of the fall and spring semester.

Topics covered during the orientation session include:

- Important TAMUCC links
  - Academic calendar, graduate catalog, S.A.I.L.
- The College of Graduate Studies
- Funding opportunities
- Degree plans
- Student handbook
SECTION III. ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

Enrollment Status

All BIOL and FAMA students with teaching or research assistantships MUST be enrolled full-time, which is 9 hours during the fall and spring semesters and 3 hours during the combined summer session. To maintain activity in either program, students must enroll for at least 1 credit hour each Fall and Spring semester. The maximum time allowed to complete the M.S. degree is 7 years, when coursework will begin to expire. Students typically, and should plan to, complete their degree within 2-3 years.

All BIOL and FAMA students must follow University rules governing graduate studies including, but not limited to: residency, recency of credit, leave, transfer credit, degree plans, grade point average, scholastic probation, enforced withdrawal, out-of-State tuition waivers, and the Texas 99-hour rule. All of these rules are described in the TAMUCC Graduate Catalog.

Choosing a Degree Track

Both BIOL and FAMA programs give students a choice between the thesis track and the professional (non-thesis) track. The thesis track can be thought of as a research intensive degree while the professional track encompasses a continuum of plans that range from internship intensive (currently only available to FAMA students, see details below) to a program that is coursework intensive with a research component. Ideally, students should enter the program knowing which track they wish to pursue, but students must decide as soon as possible (within the first 2 long semesters). Students may change from the thesis track to the professional track at any time, but it may be more difficult to change from thesis to an internship-intensive professional track than from thesis to a coursework-intensive professional track, especially if the student has already begun doing research.

FAMA Professional Track

The FAMA Professional Track Master’s Degree is designed to provide a broad understanding of fisheries and/or mariculture and is focused upon practical, hands-on experience in fisheries and/or mariculture techniques. The ultimate goal of this option is to provide students with the skills and techniques needed to improve their opportunity for employment within industry. Students are required to undertake an extensive internship program with an approved agency, institution, or commercial operation. FAMA Professional Track requirements differ substantially from those of the FAMA Thesis Track and are discussed in the next section.

Fulfilling BIOL and FAMA Program Degree Requirements

Regardless of program and track (thesis vs professional), all BIOL and FAMA master’s students must:

- create a degree plan
- develop a prospectus outlining the goals and objectives of their research project or internship
- pass a final oral examination.

In addition, thesis-track students must:
• develop a research proposal
• conduct research
• write thesis
• defend thesis

The Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)

After being accepted into the BIOL or FAMA program and enrolling, the most important first step is for thesis-track and some (mostly BIOL) professional-track students is forming the graduate advisory committee (GAC). All first semester BIOL or FAMA students will be assigned a master’s program supervisor for guidance with class registration and other program issues, which is not to be confused with your GAC supervisor. Ideally, students should select a GAC by the end of their first semester in the BIOL or FAMA program, but the committee may be formed no later than the end of their second semester in the program. The GAC will help the student develop their overall degree program, including determining a research topic, formulating a research plan, selecting coursework, approving the degree plan, reviewing and approving the final research product (thesis or professional paper), and administering any examinations. Beyond these functions, the chair and advisory committee members should serve as valuable mentors.

Composition and size of the GAC should reflect the scope of the intended graduate program and should be developed with substantial input from the student's primary advisor(s). After the committee is formed, your primary advisor will normally become your committee chair. Individual faculty members are under no obligation to serve on your committee or to be your committee chair. The decision not to serve should be based on some definable criteria such as work overload or incompatible research interests.

The graduate advisory committee consists of at least 3 members. Two members must be of the BIOL or FAMA M.S. faculty, including the committee chair. Additional members from outside the BIOL or FAMA M.S. faculty may be approved by the College of Graduate Studies (CGS). In exceptional cases, individuals holding graduate faculty rank at TAMU-CC or another accredited institution may serve as co-chair with the unanimous approval of the BIOL or FAMA M.S. faculty on the committee. In all cases involving the appointment of a non-BIOL or FAMA faculty member, a graduate faculty status request accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a rationale for the appointment must be filed with the CGS and provided to the BIOL or FAMA Program Coordinator.

Students MUST meet with their committee by the end of the first long semester but no later than the end of the second long semester. The goal of the first committee meeting is to allow students to introduce themselves and their academic and research interests to the committee and to finalize a degree plan. Students should remain in close contact with their GAC during all phases of graduate study to keep them informed of progress and setbacks. At least annually, students must meet with their GAC to update the committee regardless of progress. Students are responsible for calling required annual meetings of the committee and any other meetings deemed necessary by either the student or a committee member.

On occasions it may be necessary to replace a committee member or a committee chair. If such a situation arises, the student should consult his/her committee chair or the BIOL or FAMA program coordinator immediately. The Program Coordinator and the other members of the committee will determine if a change is necessary. The removal or replacement of a committee member requires a majority agreement of the remaining committee members and the Program Coordinator. Should a dispute arise between a
student and any committee member, the student should consult his/her committee chair, BIOL or FAMA program coordinator, or Department Chair.

**Degree Plan**

Each student, with input from the GAC or faculty supervisor, formulates a degree plan, which details the coursework that the student will undertake for his/her degree program. The minimum number of hours that are taken by all M.S. students is 36 credit-hours at the 5000- or 6000-level; however, many students will take more than the minimum, either because they wish to expand their knowledge, or because their committee requires additional coursework to address deficiencies. To address deficiencies, the GAC may require a student to take coursework at the 4000-level or less; these courses are regarded as foundation work and will not be counted toward the total. Up to 9 credit-hours of graduate-level coursework may be approved for transfer from another university or program.

*A degree plan must be filed with CGS no later than the second long semester after the student begins his/her program.* The requirements for tracks and options are listed below.

**BIOL M.S. – Thesis Track Requirements**

The BIOL thesis degree program requires students to propose an original research project, conduct the proposed research, and then prepare a thesis manuscript based on that research. The proposed research must be approved by the GAC and conducted while the student is enrolled at TAMUCC. The thesis must include review of the relevant literature, a description and statistical analysis of research results, and a discussion of the results that contextualizes the research within the larger body of research in the discipline. A minimum of 36 hours are required, which can include up to 4 hours of BIOL 5940 Project Research with approval of the GAC. In addition to the required credit hours associated with the research project, there are other required and elective courses that must be taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Total Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 6315</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5392</td>
<td>Thesis Proposal (proposal must be approved by GAC to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5393</td>
<td>Thesis Research (first draft of the thesis must be produced to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5394</td>
<td>Thesis Submission (final thesis manuscript must be approved by the GAC to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5102</td>
<td>Graduate Defense Seminar (taken in the last semester)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective, specialized, topical coursework approved by the GAC</td>
<td></td>
<td>23*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*minimum number of credit hours required
BIOL M.S. – Professional (non-thesis) Track Requirements

The BIOL professional track MS degree is designed to provide a broad understanding of biology and will especially benefit those who are already employed and are seeking advancement or additional training to enhance their knowledge and skills. This degree is heavily weighted toward additional coursework rather than research and consists of required and elective coursework, and a research project approved by the GAC that can typically be completed in one long semester. The professional paper produced must demonstrate the student’s knowledge of the relevant background literature, their ability to collect, organize and analyze data, and their ability to contextualize their data with the broader body of work within the discipline. A minimum of 36 credit hours are required for graduation. BIOL 5940 Project Research hours will NOT be counted toward the degree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Total Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Statistical Methods in Research</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5397</td>
<td>Directed Research (taken the semester when the Professional Paper will be completed, usually the last)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 5102</td>
<td>Graduate Defense Seminar (taken in the last semester)</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective, specialized, topical coursework approved by the GAC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*minimum number of credit hours required.

FAMA M.S. Thesis Track Requirements

The FAMA thesis degree program requires students to propose an original research project, conduct the proposed research, and then prepare a thesis manuscript based on that research. The proposed research must be approved by the GAC and conducted while the student is enrolled at TAMUCC. The thesis must include a review of the relevant literature, description and statistical analysis of research results, and discussion of the results that contextualizes the research within the larger body of research in the discipline. A minimum of 36 hours are required, which can include up to 6 hours of FAMA 5940 Project Research with approval of the GAC. In addition to the required credit hours associated with the research project, required and elective courses that must be taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Total Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5428</td>
<td>Fisheries*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5370</td>
<td>Mariculture*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 6315</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5392</td>
<td>Thesis Proposal (proposal must be approved by GAC to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5393</td>
<td>Thesis Research (first draft of the thesis must be produced to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5394</td>
<td>Thesis Submission (final thesis manuscript must be approved by the GAC to receive credit)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 5102</td>
<td>Graduate Defense Seminar (taken in the last semester)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective, specialized, topical coursework approved by the GAC</td>
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<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
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</table>
*Students with demonstrated competence in these courses (i.e., have taken these or similar courses as undergraduates) should substitute FAMA 5312 – Mariculture Techniques for FAMA 6370 or FAMA 5590 – Aquatic Resource Management for FAMA 6428.

FAMA Professional (non-thesis) Track Requirements

The FAMA professional track MS degree is designed to provide a broad understanding of fisheries and/or mariculture and is focused upon practical, hands-on experience in fisheries and/or mariculture techniques. This program consists of required coursework, elective coursework, and internship hours. A minimum of 36 credit hours are required for graduation. A GAC is not formed because the focus of this program is on practical, real-world experience and on-the-job training rather than research. Other requirements that exhibit the student’s research experience are omitted in favor of providing opportunities for the student to participate as a professional in the field. Differences in the requirements for students in the FAMA professional track are:

1. Students are co-supervised by a designated FAMA advisor (member of the faculty) and a qualified member of the organization providing the internship.
2. Students enter into an internship agreement with the sponsor to maintain a jointly-determined training schedule with specific objectives. These objectives will be in-line with hiring guidelines for the sponsoring entity.
3. Upon completion of the internship students write a professional paper discussing a particular aspect of their training. This document should be designed for publication in a trade journal, agency bulletin, etc. The topic and format of the document will be approved by the faculty advisor and agent of the sponsor.
4. Students are not required to present a graduate defense seminar but must complete an oral examination in a format jointly agreed upon by the faculty advisor and agent of the internship sponsor (e.g., professional interview, etc.)

Successful completion of the FAMA Professional Track is jointly assessed by the faculty advisor and internship supervisor. Factors considered include the timely completion of the internship, quality of the intern’s work, quality of the professional paper, professional conduct of the candidate, and overall knowledge displayed in the final interview.

Students must complete 37 semester credit hours with more than half taken as internship hours. This degree plan does not include elective coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Total Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAMA 6428</td>
<td>Fisheries*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMA 6370</td>
<td>Mariculture*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMA 5312</td>
<td>Mariculture Techniques or</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or FAMA 5590</td>
<td>Aquatic Resource Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 6315</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMA 5397</td>
<td>Professional Paper Submission (taken in the last semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAMA 5398</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>variable</td>
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</tbody>
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*Students with demonstrated competence in these courses (i.e., have taken these or similar courses as undergraduates) should substitute FAMA 5312 – Mariculture Techniques for FAMA 6370 or FAMA 5590 – Aquatic Resource Management for FAMA 6428.

This handbook is intended to be read in conjunction with the Graduate Catalog: [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/index.php) and the College of Graduate Studies Master’s Student Handbook [http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/](http://gradschool.tamucc.edu/).
**Deadlines**

*Thesis/Professional Paper and Oral Examination Deadlines*

Students must be able to formally present/defend the results of their research (thesis track and some professional track) and complete the oral examination administered by their GAC by deadlines that are established by CGS in order to graduate at the end of the semester:

- Fall Graduation: November 15
- Spring Graduation: April 15
- Summer Graduation: August 15

Thesis manuscripts must be approved and signed by the GAC and in the Dean’s office for his signature *on or before the last day of classes* in any given semester.

Professional papers must be approved and signed by the GAC or faculty and internship supervisors and turned in to the Academic Advisor *on or before the last day of classes* in any given semester.

*Graduation Deadlines*

You must submit a completed application for graduation to your academic advisor by the posted deadline. The application must be obtained and processed through your advisor.

Graduation deadlines are posted by the Office of the Registrar at  
[http://registrar.tamucc.edu/apply_for_grad.html](http://registrar.tamucc.edu/apply_for_grad.html),  
[http://registrar.tamucc.edu/degrees_graduation/apply_for_grad.html](http://registrar.tamucc.edu/degrees_graduation/apply_for_grad.html)

*About Commencement*

For dates, times and location of the commencement ceremonies please visit  

*Interactions With Other Graduate Students*

Graduate education is not a solitary endeavor. Students must make opportunities to discuss their projects with other graduate students, and offer to assist others in the field or laboratory. Beyond generating camaraderie, this will give students a more comprehensive understanding of the many specific issues and problems in coastal and marine systems, expose them to a broad array of lab/field techniques, provide ideas for research, and provide opportunities to reciprocate in supporting each other.