

Expectations of Students, Major Advisors and Advisory Committee Members MS AFLS Degree Program, University of Arkansas

Students

The MS AFLS program is a Master of Science degree that includes a wide breadth of agricultural, food and life sciences. Graduates of the program understand science and its application to agricultural, food and life science problems. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of science and a breadth of appreciation for the agricultural, food and life sciences in their course work, their special project or thesis, and their final oral examination.

Major Advisors

Major advisors of MS AFLS students work closely with their students to select a committee and organize an overall academic program that includes appropriate course work and a special project. The overall program should be developed by the second semester of enrollment and it should reflect academic interests of the student. Appropriate projects should address issues or questions of mutual interest to the student and the advisor. This may be a component of ongoing research by the advisor, but it should clearly reflect a definable and independent topic area for the student. A written proposal of the project and a proposed program of study should be presented to the committee for review and approval, ideally in a formal committee meeting, before the project is initiated. A final paper describing the project should be reviewed and approved by the major advisor before it is submitted to the committee at least two weeks before the final examination. The initial proposal and final paper should reflect knowledge of scientific literature and a scientific approach to the chosen project. Topics of interest may range from highly empirical works to more descriptive and/or creative scholarly works.

Advisory Committee Members

Responsibilities of MS AFLS advisory committee member are those typical of all Master of Science committees. The committee should assist the student and the major advisor in developing and implementing the overall academic program. This will include but not be limited to serving as a source of advice and expertise for the student, critically evaluating and reviewing the proposed program of study, the final project paper or thesis, and the student's fulfillment of degree requirements.

Graduate School Requirements

Students, major advisors and advisory committee members are governed by the rules of the Graduate School. Specific definitions of Graduate School responsibilities for each can be found in the Graduate Catalog or on the Graduate School website at <http://www.uark.edu/depts/gradinfo/dean/handbook/intro.html>.