

Special Problems Project

The M.S. in Food Safety requires that students complete a special problems project, or a thesis, to complete their degree. Per the Graduate School, no more than six hours of special problems may count toward a 30 hour master's degree.

The purpose of the special problem project is to show the student has realized the learning objectives set forth by for the MS in Food Safety, demonstrate the student's ability to locate and identify relevant scientific data, and interpret and analyze that data to formulate applicable solutions in the student's chosen focus of study.

Steps to completion:

- Students present a proposal for a special problem project to their major advisor one year prior to the anticipated semester it will be worked on.
- The major advisor will work with the student to ensure the proposal meets the basic expectations and is a viable proposal.
 - The proposal should reflect the learning objectives set forth by the program and demonstrate proficient knowledge of the scientific process
- After the proposal is developed entirely, the student will submit it to their advisory committee for approval.
 - If the committee rejects the proposal, the student and major advisor will work together to either refine or change the proposal using feedback from the advisory committee.
 - If the student significantly changes the proposal, it should go through the approval process again.
- The student will enroll in a 500v class with their advisor in the final year of the program.
- The student will work on the special problems project in close consultation with his/her advisor throughout the life of the project.
- The project will culminate in a scientific paper that reflects the intended outcome of the proposal.
 - It is recommended that students use the format of the [Graduate School guide for to preparing a thesis](#) for their scientific special problems paper.
- A preliminary draft of the scientific paper should be submitted to the major advisor for review, feedback, and approval.
- The student will work with the advisor to schedule an oral presentation and final defense to the student's advisory committee.
 - If necessary, this presentation can be done via video conferencing with the approval of the advisory committee.
- Two weeks prior to the oral presentation and final defense of the special problem project, a copy of the final scientific paper should be sent to all members of the advisory committee and the program coordinator.
- The student will be expected to clearly present the outcome of special problem project and defend the project in a final oral examination in order to graduate.