Botany MSc Timeline - Quick Guide

DISCLAIMER: This Quick Guide is a basic overview of a typical Botany MSc timeline. The guide is meant to complement, not replace, the Botany Graduate Regulations, which describe the following events in greater detail. Graduate students should carefully review the Botany Graduate Regulations and follow up with the Graduate Secretary when questions arise.

Initial Meeting
See Graduate Regulation #3
Meet supervisory committee and discuss research plan
Consult with supervisory committee about required coursework

Recommended completion
Within 3 months

Coursework
See Graduate Regulation #5
12 credits required (~4 courses), including BOTA501
If intend to transfer to PhD, then 9 credits must be 500-level

MSc Defence of Thesis Proposal
See Graduate Regulation #6
Submit MSc Thesis proposal to supervisory committee
Meeting chaired by Research Supervisor
Supervisory committee will attend
Deliver 20-minute oral presentation
Defend Proposal! Signed forms submitted to Alice upon completion

Recommended completion
Within 9-12 months

OPTIONAL: Transfer-to-PhD Candidacy Exam
See Graduate Regulation #8
Ask supervisor and supervisory committee about transferring
Ensure that coursework requirements are completed
Ensure that MSc thesis proposal has been defended
Select 2 external and 2-3 supervisory examiners
Contact Graduate Advisor about chairing exam
Submit Proposed Examiner Form to Alice
Submit PhD Thesis Proposal to supervisory committee for approval
PhD Thesis Proposal approval forms submitted to Alice
Revised and approved PhD Thesis Proposal submitted to all examiners
Exam! Graduate Advisor submits paperwork to Alice
(If exam isn’t passed, student remains in MSc stream)

Recommended completion
Within 12-18 months

Annual progress meetings
See Graduate Regulation #9

Recommended completion
At least once every 12 months

Schedule Exit Seminar (BOTA502) during final year
Schedule this at least 6 months in advance

Defence of MSc Thesis
See Graduate Regulation #10a
Select 1 external and 2 supervisory examiners
Contact Graduate Advisor about chairing Defence
Submit MSc Thesis to supervisory committee for approval
MSc Thesis approval forms submitted to Alice
Circulate thesis to all examiners, including external
Defend MSc Thesis

Recommended completion
Generally within 24 months

Revise MSc Thesis according to examiner recommendations
Submit revised MSc Thesis to supervisory committee for approval, if required
Submit Final MSc Thesis to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Recommended completion
Generally within 1 month after Defence

Congratulations on completing your MSc Program!