

Master's level research includes the guided development of a research question, planning and conducting the work to answer the posed question, and communicating the results and implications of this research in oral (thesis defense) and written (thesis) form.

The following lists expectations for **MS** graduates within GPMSL:

- Students are expected to form a solid written research plan and an advisory committee by the end of the first year.
- Students convene a committee meeting at the end of their first year and semi-annual committee meetings thereafter, in which the research plan is reviewed. If a revision of the research plan is necessary, the revision is outlined in the committee report and a revised proposal is attached to the paperwork. Students are encouraged to also discuss their research informally with their committee members on an ongoing basis.
- Students are expected to take their written comprehensive exams after completion of their required core courses, ideally at the end of their first year.
- Students are expected to present their work at one statewide or national conference during their tenure.
- Students are expected to engage in a field component/experience and are encouraged to develop proficiency in a laboratory/analytical skill.
- Students are expected to effectively communicate their discoveries in a written, scientific format (i.e., thesis).
- Students are encouraged to submit one manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal before they graduate.
- Students are encouraged to participate in outreach and teaching activities as the professional development of these skills may be very important in future careers.