Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology: Am I on Track?

The Department of Entomology has a new degree program that allows students to obtain both a BS and MS degrees through an integrated 5-year plan of study. This program prepares students for careers that require knowledge of entomology and for pursuing subsequent medical or doctoral degrees.

Please use the checklist to help keep you on track for completing the program on time. If at any time you have questions, please ask the B.S. + M.S. faculty advisor. You are responsible for reading and being familiar with all program requirements as spelled out on the B.S. + M.S. website.

Before Applying to the Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology (JUNIOR YR)

Junior Year: Before 2nd Quarter (usually Winter Qtr of Junior Year)
☐ Fully read the website
☐ Attend an informational session with the B.S.+ M.S. faculty advisor
☐ Check your GPA, make sure you are or will meet all the eligibility requirements for the program
☐ Check your total number of units **You must have room in your schedule for 3 consecutive qtrs. of research (ENTM 190/197/199)**
☐ Identify a potential research mentor
☐ Acknowledge that there is no guaranteed funding for the MS portion of the program*

Junior Year: 3rd Quarter (usually Spring Qtr of Junior Year)
☐ Check your GPA and course schedule to make sure you meet all the eligibility requirements for the program.
☐ Meet with major professor (i.e., your faculty mentor) to develop your research project.
☐ Meet with B.S. + M.S. faculty advisor and/or attend an informational session to answer any questions.
☐ Download the Statement of Interest Eligibility (SIE) template from the B.S. +M.S. website. Work with your major professor to complete the template. You will need to copy and paste this information into the SIE form when ready (DocuSign form).
☐ Submit SIE DocuSign before end of the 3rd quarter (usually Spring Qtr).
☐ Start your research project! You should meet with your major professor regularly to ensure research progress.

Bachelor's Portion of the Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology (SENIOR YR)

You should meet before each quarter with the BS/MS faculty advisor. Remember there is no guaranteed funding for your master's year. Confer with your major professor about competitive research grant opportunities, check the CNAS grants website, and if you plan to fund your master's year with financial aid, you MUST make sure you file the appropriate paperwork (FAFSA, Renewal FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application) before the annual early March deadline. If you have questions about financial aid, please contact the financial aid office or the BS/MS faculty advisor.

1st Qtr (usually Fall Qtr): Form your MS guidance committee and focus on research
☐ Check your GPA and make sure you are meeting the program requirements.
☐ Meet quarterly with the B.S.+ M.S. faculty advisor.
☐ Sign up for research credits (ENTM 190/197/199/199H) for this quarter.
☐ Make sure you have enough room under the unit cap to take research credits every quarter of the BS portion of the program (This is a requirement!).
☐ Work with your faculty mentor to identify committee members and fill out your MS Guidance Committee form (DocuSign form).

2nd Qtr (usually Winter Qtr): Focus on research and submit Academic Program of Study form
☐ Check your GPA and make sure you are meeting the program requirements.
☐ Meet quarterly with the B.S.+ M.S. faculty advisor.
☐ Sign up for research credits (ENTM 190/197/199/199H) for this quarter.
☐ Submit Academic Program of Study form for approval (DocuSign form).
☐ Apply to graduate with your Bachelor's degree. Check the registrar's website for up-to-date deadlines for degree and diploma deadlines. You are responsible for making sure you meet these deadlines.

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* There is no guaranteed financial funding for the MS portion of the program, and you should expect to pay out of pocket (self-fund) or use financial aid to cover your MS tuition and fees. If you have questions about this, please contact the financial aid office or the BS/MS faculty advisor. If you plan to use financial aid, you must make sure you submit all your appropriate paperwork (FAFSA, Renewal FA FSA or CA Dream Act Application) before the annual deadline (usually -March 1st) during your senior year to ensure no disruption in aid. Grants may be available; please check the CNAS website for potential funding opportunities. In addition, there are some cases where your major professor may have funding or partial funding for your tuition/fees; you will want to discuss potential funding options with your major professor.

Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology

Bachelor's Portion of the Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology (SENIOR YR, cont.)

3rd Qtr (usually Spring Qtr): Focus on research and apply to the MS portion of the program

☐ Check your GPA and make sure you are meeting the program requirements.
☐ Meet quarterly with the B.S.+ M.S. faculty advisor.
☐ Check your degree audit to ensure you are eligible and schedule to graduate at the end of this quarter.
☐ Sign up for research credits (ENTM 190/197/199/199H) for this quarter.
☐ When contacted by the BS+MS faculty advisor, apply to the Master's portion of the program (details below).

Applying for admission to the Master's portion of the B.S.+M.S. Program

When contacted by the B.S.+M.S. faculty advisor with details, you will want to put together your application package to upload to the Slate system. Please refer to the B.S.+M.S. website for additional details. Once accepted, you will receive additional instructions for registering for graduate classes in the following quarter. For this application, you will need:

☐ UCR Transcript (unofficial is sufficient)
☐ Statement of Purpose (Please state your specific interests including your thesis topic, career objectives, research interests and experience. Please see grad application for additional prompt details. Limit 2000 words)
☐ Contact information for three references (major professor, one other, and the B.S.+M.S. faculty advisor.
☐ A copy of your updated CV

Master's Portion of the Combined B.S. + M.S. Program in Entomology (5th YR)

1st Qtr (usually Fall Qtr): Focus on research and analysis

☐ Present at Annual Graduate Student Seminar Day (oral presentation ~10-12 minutes long)
☐ Discuss with major professor to ensure that you have planned your course schedule to meet all B.S.+M.S. degree requirements within 3 quarters.
☐ Meet with the B.S.+M.S. faculty advisor every quarter.
☐ Continue making progress on research.

2nd Qtr (usually Winter Qtr): Wrap up research and analyses to focus on writing

☐ Meet with B.S.+M.S. faculty advisor. Check your GPA meets requirements and that you are on track to graduate the following quarter.
☐ Discuss research progress with major professor. You should be wrapping up research and starting writing.
☐ Submit your advancement to candidacy form to Graduate Division (contact: Evelyn Sullivan) before the first day of your 3rd quarter (i.e. the quarter in which you will graduate with a M.S.)
☐ Discuss and set the date of your defense with your major professor and committee.
☐ Make sure you are aware of all Grad Division deadlines (advancement to candidacy form, thesis form, ProQuest deadlines)

3rd Qtr (usually Spring Qtr): Focus on completing written thesis

☐ Meet with B.S.+M.S. faculty advisor. Check that you are on track to graduate this quarter.**
☐ Submit your advancement to candidacy form to Graduate Division (contact: Evelyn Sullivan)
☐ You should be focused on writing your thesis
☐ Apply for graduation before Week 4 (check Grad Division for up-to-date deadlines)
☐ Schedule your defense and provide your thesis to committee at least 30 days before defense.
☐ Successfully defend your thesis
☐ Submit your written thesis and submit your report of defense to Grad Division.
   ** If you plan to defend in the summer, make sure that your committee will be available during that time and that you meet all summer deadlines.