

MASTER DEGREES

What Does a “Typical” Master’s Look Like at the University of Arizona?

There are many different pathways to a Master’s Degree at the University of Arizona, but there are also many similarities. Here is a bit about what you can expect.

- Master’s programs typically take **2 years to complete (4 semesters)**. However, there are some programs that can be accomplished in 1 year and others that take closer to 3 or 4 years.
- All Master’s programs require a minimum of **30 credit hours** (that is about 10 courses), but some programs require 33-36 credits, and there are even a handful that require closer to 40!
- All Master’s students will have a graduate faculty advisor to help direct them in their advanced studies.

Some Master’s programs require a “**Master’s Thesis**” to complete the degree. For students doing a thesis, they will have a graduate faculty advisor and a graduate committee. With the committee, the student will decide on a project to complete (often a creative project or independent research study) and will present the final product to the graduate committee for approval to graduate. Students who wish to pursue a PhD will often choose this pathway.

Other Master’s programs have a capstone writing project called a “**Master’s Report**” and this is a culminating paper or project that the student presents to the faculty advisor for approval to graduate. Students who choose this pathway sometimes pursue a PhD, but very often plan to apply their knowledge immediately to the workforce.

There are some Master’s programs that are course-work only and these typically involve additional content area courses to prepare a student for entry into the workforce.

Generally, Master’s students complete the majority of their coursework in the first 3 semesters and the either continue their coursework in the fourth semester or reduce their coursework and begin working on their Master’s Thesis or Master’s Report projects.