Introduction

The Master of Science (MS) degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of 30 credit hours of graduate work, including conducting independent research leading to a dissertation, and a final examination. Candidates for a MS degree must be enrolled in a clinical training program or department within the College of Dentistry. The time required for completion of the Master of Science program will be one year beyond that specified for the clinical training program when that period is two years or less.

Admission Requirements

Students for the MS program must be enrolled in a clinical training program or a Department in the College of Dentistry. The admission requirements and application deadlines vary by program or department and can be found at: https://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/education-graduate-programs.

Course Requirements

Coursework will consist of courses dedicated to research methodology and to the candidate’s area of clinical and research interest. A minimum of 21 hours of formal coursework will be required. Students will initially be advised by the Graduate Program Directors within their respective clinical programs or departments. Thereafter, the student’s Research Committee will also advise the student on coursework selection.

Research Committee

The Research Committee will consist of a minimum of three members of the graduate faculty, at least one of whom must be from outside the candidate’s department. The Committee will be chaired by the major advisor. The student and major advisor should work to form the Committee by the end of the first year of the program. The Program Committee will approve the major advisor and composition of the Committee. The student must convene the Research Committee every 6 months to provide an update related to research activities and progress.

Research Prospectus

Prior to beginning research leading to the dissertation, the candidate will prepare a prospectus. This document, about two single-spaced pages, will set out the objectives of the research and include a brief review of the literature, the questions and hypotheses involved, and the methods to be used to collect, analyze and interpret the data. The Research Committee will approve the prospectus or request modifications.

Final Examination

The candidate will be examined orally by the Examining Committee which will consist of the candidate’s Research Committee. The examination will test the candidate’s knowledge relevant to their research and their particular specialty in oral science.
Administration of the Program in Oral Science

The Program in Oral Science will be headed by the Director who will chair the Program Committee.

Program Committee

The Program Committee, as constituted for the PhD program, will also oversee the MS program. The Committee will be chaired by the Program Director and consist of at least 3 Oral Sciences Graduate program faculty, a faculty representative from outside the College who has experience in Ph.D. training and mentorship, and 2 Ph.D. students currently enrolled in the Oral Sciences Graduate program. The terms of the Graduate program faculty will be three years; the terms of the Ph.D. students and outside representative will be one year. All terms are renewable, though all program faculty and students will be notified of expiring terms and will have the opportunity to volunteer or submit nominations. Voting for new members will be via e-mail to the Program Director.

Program Committee Responsibilities

1. The Program Committee will meet at least once a semester to review the program curriculum and discuss issues pertinent to its functioning.

2. The Program Committee will be responsible for approving selections of Major Advisors and the composition of Research Committees. These responsibilities may be accomplished via e-mail votes unless membership feels the need to convene the Committee.

3. The Committee will be convened as needed to arbitrate student or faculty grievances related to the functions of the MS program.

Student members of the Program Committee may vote on items that come under listing (1.). For all other Program Committee functions the student members are invited to participate in discussion but must abstain from voting.