A. Master of Science Degree (M.S.)

Candidates have six calendar years from the time of enrollment in The Graduate School to complete the Master's degree. Students who change degree programs during this six-year period may be granted an extension after review and approval by The Graduate School. In any event, courses used toward the degree must have been taken within six years of graduation.

1. Departmental Requirements.
   
      
i. A total of 30-credit hours in courses numbered above 400, including at least 6 credit hours of thesis (Math 500) and 15 hours in mathematics courses numbered above 500. Of the 24 nonthesis credit hours, 6 may be earned in courses approved by the thesis advisor in fields other than mathematics. (More than 6 hours of Math 500 may be taken, but only 6 hours will count toward the degree.)
      
ii. Sequence Requirement (see c.).

iii. Thesis and Oral Examination.

b. Nonthesis Option.
   
i. A total of 30 credit-hours in courses numbered above 400, including 21 credit hours (with at least 15 in mathematics) numbered above 500. Of the 30 credit hours, 9 may be earned in courses approved by the Supervisory Committee in fields other than mathematics.
   
ii. Sequence Requirement (see c.).

iii. Non-thesis option: A student must take the reading course, Math 598, in which a term paper or project is required. The instructor and student must agree that the term paper or project will be the student's nonthesis Master's project, and the student must make an oral presentation of the results of the project to the director and the reader of the project. 
   
   or 
   
Preliminary exam option: The student must pass one PhD preliminary examination in mathematics with a PhD level score as required in the PhD program.

   
c. Sequence Requirements

All M.S. degree candidates must pass three year-long sequences. Any pair of graduate-level mathematics courses appearing as a sequence in the Graduate Catalog is acceptable. One of the three sequences may be at the 400-level and may have been taken at UT or elsewhere for undergraduate or graduate credit. All pairs of 400-level mathematics courses appearing as sequences in the Graduate Catalog (available online) are acceptable and so are the following pairs of courses: 423-424, 423-425, 431-435, any two of 460-462-467, 471-472. A graduate sequence from a field other than mathematics may be used with approval of the DGS.

2. General Comments
   
a. The purpose of the thesis option is to give students an opportunity to study an area of mathematics under the supervision of a faculty member and to organize and present their findings in writing. The Master's Committee for the thesis option consists of the major professor and two other faculty members. The Committee reads the thesis and administers the oral examination in which the student usually summarizes the thesis and answers any questions the Committee may ask.

b. The purpose of the project sub-option is to give students an opportunity to study an area of mathematics under the supervision of a faculty member and to organize and present their findings in
a written report and oral presentation. The Master’s Committee for the project option consists of the faculty member directing the project under the Math 598 reading course and a reader. The Committee reads the project report and administers the oral examination in which the student usually summarizes the project and answers any questions the Committee may ask. This option does not require submission of a thesis to the graduate school. The purpose of the course-work option is to give PhD students a convenient way to obtain an MS degree along the way to their PhD.

**Procedures for Fulfilling Requirements**

a. Begin course work.

b. Obtain a thesis advisor and Master’s Committee, or obtain written approval of Supervisory Committee for nonthesis option.

c. If applying for concurrent MS, complete concurrent MS form and email to the Director of Graduate Studies.

d. Apply for admission to candidacy (at least one semester prior to graduation--consult Graduate Schools web site at http://gradschool.utk.edu/forms-central/ for all forms and deadlines). Forms should be completed online, printed, and require original or digital signatures of 3 committee members.

e. Complete course work and write thesis, if necessary.

f. Place name on graduation list via MyUTK.

g. Apply for diploma.

h. Schedule oral examination (not later than three weeks before thesis deadline), or, for nonthesis option, schedule presentation.

i. Pass oral examination.

j. Submit project report approved by project supervisor and reader, if in non-thesis program.

k. Remove all incompletes (not later than one week before commencement).

l. Obtain approval by the Graduate School of final copy of thesis if thesis option has been elected (after oral examination and no later than two weeks before commencement).