Master’s degrees Options at TAMU-Kingsville

Thesis Option
1. Thirty semester hours of approved graduate courses, with at least 18 semester hours (including 6 hours of Thesis 5306 research) in a major subject.
2. No more than 6 semester hours of credit for special problems courses may be accepted.
3. A research thesis must be prepared under the direction of a professor in the major subject area who is the student's thesis adviser. A thesis proposal approved by the thesis adviser must be completed for a letter grade (A, B, C) to be assigned in the first 3 hours of Thesis Research 5306.
4. The student must be registered for the thesis course during the semester of graduation.
5. The thesis must be accepted by a committee of at least 3 faculty members including the thesis adviser and at least, one other professor from the major area. Other committee member(s) may be selected from the major field area or other. The student will make an oral defense of the thesis and comprehensive exam before the committee no later than five weeks before commencement. The thesis defense report forms, signature page and abstract are to be filed in the Graduate Office.
6. Thesis 5306 is used solely by ‘Thesis Option’ students. The thesis requires 6 semester credit hours of grades, the first 3 semester credit hours consisting of a proposal and the last 3 semester credit hours consisting of a thesis. The students should be enrolled in 5306 during semesters or summer terms when the student is receiving supervision from the thesis adviser, thesis committee or is receiving a research stipend.
7. The final form of each thesis must be approved by the graduate dean for style, format and scholarly merit. A copy of the first page of the Turnitin report signed by the thesis adviser has to be submitted as well. Instructions concerning the form to be used and details to be followed in preparing the thesis may be obtained from the Graduate Office.

Courses-Only Option
1. Thirty-six semester hours of approved graduate courses, with at least 24 semester hours in a major subject area. Each student’s degree plan must be approved by the program coordinator and the department chair.
2. Each department will make sure that the graduate courses in the major provide students with knowledge of the literature of the discipline and ensure student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences will be required.
3. Without special permission from the program coordinator, the department chair and the graduate dean, no more than 6 semester hours of credit for special problems or independent study courses may be accepted. Courses such as 5305 and 5306 cannot be used to fulfill the requirements of Courses-Only option.
4. A common written comprehensive examination that illustrates knowledge of the literature of the discipline and ensures student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences will be required. It will be conducted by a departmental committee comprised of at least two faculty members. The comprehensive exam should be taken by each student in the last semester.

Project Option
1. Thirty-six semester hours of approved graduate courses, with at least 24 semester hours in a major subject area. Each student’s degree plan must be approved by a faculty advisor, the graduate program coordinator and department chair.
2. Without special permission from all members of the student’s committee and the graduate dean, no more than 6 semester hours of credit for special problems courses may be accepted.
3. A project report produced as a major assignment in a 3 hour 5000-level course from a department-approved list of courses including 5305 is required.
4. Upon recommendation of the project adviser, the project report must be approved by a faculty member in the major, the graduate program coordinator and department chair. The project will demonstrate knowledge of the literature of the discipline and ensure student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences.
5. One copy of the approved research project will be placed in the student’s file in the major department. Also, a copy of the signed project cover page with the appropriate signatures, original first page of Turnitin Report and a completed comprehensive exam form must be submitted to the Graduate Dean for final approval.

6. An Oral and/or written comprehensive examination that illustrates knowledge of the literature of the discipline and ensures student engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training experiences will be required. It will be conducted by a departmental/project committee comprised of at least two faculty members. The comprehensive exam should be taken by each student in the last semester.