The BNS Program requires that in order for graduate students to be eligible for more than four semesters of state funding in their 3rd year, students must complete their Master degree requirements (MS degree) by the end of the second year or very beginning of the third year.

The BNS faculty have agreed upon the following formats to meet the Master’s degree requirements:

1. First-year spring semester:
   There will be an oral BNS lunch presentation outlining the research project (a copy of the power-point to the three committee members [mentor and 2 other BNS faculty] prior to the talk (2-working days preference [Thursday 9 AM], 1-working day mandatory [Friday 9 AM]).

2. Second year completion of the project:
   A) Formal written document (hand to committee 2 wks prior to defense).
      i.) First author publication: a submitted or to-be submitted manuscript.

      or

      ii) Research prospectus: This document will include an introduction, method, results to date, as well as a discussion section of the needed data for completion, theoretical and mechanistic explanations of the data, as well as future directions of the research.

   B) Oral defense with a committee and public. This is to be completed at BNS lunch (required) in the spring semester of your 2nd year, or at the latest the fall semester of your 3rd year.

"If a MS proposal or defense needs to be scheduled outside the academic schedule (which should occur only under extraordinary conditions, which poor planning does not fall under), a petition must be filed with the Area Head, with support from the committee."