Master of Arts (M.A.)
Science Education Program
Department of Mathematics and Science Education, University of Georgia
Requirements/Advising Worksheet

30 Semester Hours of graduate credit (courses numbered 6000+) are required in total. At least 12 hours must be UGA courses open only to graduate students (i.e. not 4000/6000 or 5000/7000-level courses cross-listed for alternative undergraduate credit), other than ESCI 7000 and 7300.

Important note regarding teacher certification status: The M.A. program is not designed to incorporate initial Secondary Science teacher certification as part of the program and, due to recent clarifications and changes in Georgia Professional Standards Commission rules, also does not qualify students already holding T-4 certification in Secondary Science fields or in Middle Grades Science for upgrade to T-5 status. Initial certification students should choose the M.A.T. or pursue certification on a non-degree basis, and already-certified students should choose the M.Ed. instead if a certification upgrade is one important goal of graduate study.

1. Science Content courses
(3 courses; 9 hours total)

2. Curriculum and Instruction (primarily in Science Education)
(3 courses; 9 hours total)

3. Educational Research
(2 courses; 6 hours total)

4. Elective
(1 course; 3 hours)
An elective course should be selected by the student in consultation with the Major Professor, and may be in any of the above fields or any other judged relevant to the student’s interest in science education.

5. Thesis
(1 course; 3 hours)

6. Thesis
(1 course; 3 hours)
In accordance with UGA Graduate School rules:
• Transfer credit from another institution is limited to 6 hours, with grades of B or higher.
• A maximum of 9 hours of coursework initially taken on a non-degree basis at UGA may be applied to degree requirements.
• A student must be registered for at least 3 hours during the semester in which requirements for the degree (e.g., thesis) are completed. These last 3 hours must be through UGA rather than transferred.
• All students must comply with the Graduate School’s Continuous Enrollment Policy.

1Full-time students are encouraged to enroll in substantively advanced coursework in science fields related to their undergraduate major. Such courses are only very rarely available at UGA in Summer Semester and/or during evening hours, however, and therefore are often difficult or impossible to schedule for students holding a full-time teaching job. Therefore part-time students most often enroll in Summer, evening, or online courses, having few or no prerequisites yet carrying graduate credit, in science fields in which their background is relatively weak.

Note that the highly popular Georgia Shore Program, a Summer Teacher Workshop offered through the UGA Marine Extension Service, carries ESCI credit (under the course numbers 6220 and 6230; see below) but can be considered as Science Content courses for the purpose of fulfilling this requirement.

Advisors are encouraged to use reasonable judgment in considering approval of courses offered at field locations or online by other UGA departments or programs or by other universities or scientific institutions (e.g., in recent years, NASA, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, American Museum of Natural History). In some cases such substantively appropriate courses/workshops do not carry formal graduate credit from any university, and advisors may choose to offer credit under ESCI 6000 for the student to prepare a final report, project, portfolio, or presentation based on the scientific experience in question.

2 Master’s-level courses in Science Education include:
• ESCI 6000 Special Problems in Science Education [directed study with a member of the faculty]
• ESCI 6100 Laboratory Teaching Internship [in introductory Biology or Chemistry courses at UGA]
• ESCI 6200 Science, Technology, and Society [Second Summer Session]
• ESCI 6220 Marine Environmental Education [2 weeks in June at UGA Extension at Skidaway Island]
• ESCI 6230 Environmental Science Education [2 weeks in June at UGA Extension at Skidaway Island]
• ESCI 6420 Science for PreK-8th Grade [Second Summer Session]
• ESCI 6480 Technological Capabilities for Science Teaching [Fall Semester, evening]
• ESCI 7040 Teaching Strategies for Secondary School Science [First Summer Session]
• ESCI 7080 Curriculum Planning in Science Education [Second Summer Session]

8000- and 9000-level ESCI courses (intended primarily for specialist and/or doctoral level students) may also be taken with the permission of the instructor. Most of these courses are offered evenings during Fall and Spring Semesters.

Courses in other fields within the College of Education (e.g., Mathematics Education, Language and Literacy Education) may also be used to fulfill this requirement, at the discretion of the advisor.

3Depending on the primary methodology planned for the thesis study, it may often be appropriate to take a course, or an additional course, in quantitative (ERSH or STAT) or qualitative (QUAL) educational research methodology in addition to the required introductory course. ESCI 7000 is an appropriate enrollment for extensive but less structured work (e.g., literature review or small-scale pilot study) during a particular semester on initial development of a thesis study under the guidance of the Major Professor.

4All UGA graduate students must register for at least 3 hours of coursework during at least two of the three semesters of each year (operationally defined as beginning in Fall and ending in Summer) until graduation. To cite the two most common practical implications of this rule, it is not permissible to be a “summers only” student (even at the beginning and/or end of a program), and in order to “take the summer off” it is required to have been registered during both of the preceding two academic year semesters.