

Plant Sciences/Horticulture

Department Information

- **Department Head:**
Richard Horsley, Ph.D.
- **Graduate Coordinator:**
Edward Deckard, Ph.D.
- **Department Location:**
166 Loftsgard Hall
- **Department Phone:**
(701) 231-7971
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ag.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/ (<http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/plantsciences/>)
- **Application Deadline:**
International applications are due May 1 for Fall and October 15 for Spring. Domestic applicants should apply at least one month prior to the start of classes.
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D. (Plant Sciences only), M.S.
- **Test Requirement:**
The GRE requirement is waived for the current admissions cycle.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL iBT 71, IELTS 6; Duolingo 100

Degree Programs

The M.S. Program, Thesis Option, requires completion of at least 30 credits; this includes 10 credits of thesis research (PLSC 798).

An M.S. Program, Comprehensive Study Option, is also offered in Plant Sciences. This option requires completion of at least 30 credits, including 3 credits of a Master's Paper (PLSC 797).

The Ph.D. Program requires completion of at least 90 credits; this includes 30 credits for an earned M.S. degree (Thesis Option), 2 credits from two teaching experiences (PLSC 892), 2 additional credits of seminar (PLSC 790), and 20 additional research credits (PLSC 899). An optional Ph.D. Program of Emphasis in Plant Breeding and Genetics is available with additional course requirements as mentioned on the departmental website.

See the tables below for program requirements

For each M.S. or Ph.D. candidate, a plan of study will be developed in the first year that meets the disciplinary requirements as well as the individual needs of the student. The faculty adviser and other members of the student's supervisory/advisory and examining committee assist in developing of the plan of study as well as the student's research plan. Candidates for the M.S. degree programs normally satisfy all requirements within a two-year period. Ph.D. candidates normally require three additional years. For M.S. candidates, an oral examination of academics related to the discipline and the research-based thesis is required. The Ph.D. candidates are required to pass a preliminary written and oral examination of academics related to the discipline and a final oral defense of a research-based dissertation.

A B.S. to Ph.D. program is permitted for students who meet higher admission requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
M.S. Plan A - Thesis Option		30
600-700 level courses including 3 credits of PLSC 724 or equivalent		19
16 of which must be in didactic courses approved for graduate credit numbered 600-689 and 700-789		
PLSC 790	Graduate Seminar	1
PLSC 798	Master's Thesis	10
M.S. Plan B - Comprehensive Study Option		30
600-700 level courses including 3 credits of PLSC 724 or equivalent		26
21 of the 30 credits must be in didactic courses approved for graduate credit numbered 600-689 and 700-789		
PLSC 790	Graduate Seminar	1
PLSC 797	Master's Paper	3

Code	Title	Credits
M.S. (thesis option) to Ph.D.		60
600 - 800 level courses (including PLSC 724 if not part of MS)		36
27 of which must be didactic courses numbered 601-689, 700-789, or 800-889		
15 of the 27 must be 700-789 or 800-889		
PLSC 790	Graduate Seminar	2
PLSC 892	Graduate Teaching Experience	2
PLSC 899	Doctoral Dissertation	20
