

Master's Roadmap (August, 2011)

First Fall Semester -

- Work hard in classes.
- Start scoping out who might be a good advisor for you. Ask around about advisors. Look at faculty members' websites. Note that just because you really link into a professor's teaching style does not mean you will link in the same way with their advising style. You want to find the advisor that is the best fit for you.
- If you have an idea of what you want to do, go ahead and take that breadth course first so that you don't get behind. Also, if you find out that area is not your strength, you can switch before it is too late.

First Spring Semester -

- Work hard in classes
- Finish your breadth classes.
- Decide what field you want to pursue, and pick your advisor. When you do, let Kris Hunnicut know! Also, pick your advisor as early as possible! Advisors can quickly fill up with students, and an advisor that would have been happy to work with you earlier in the semester may tell you he/she is full later in the semester. The first-year seminar is this semester, where prospective advisors present interesting projects they are working on, and this can be a help.
- **Note:** It is also a good idea to have your *final* transcript sent to the graduate school from your undergraduate institution during this semester. The graduate school must have your final undergraduate transcript before you graduate.

Summer -

- Take some summer courses and, if possible, begin reading on your master's project early.
- You may consider trying for an internship. These float around via emails, so pay attention to the emails the department sends out about summer internships. Check with your advisor to see if he/she knows about any internships the department may not have announced. Maybe do some research on your own to find good internships.

Second Fall Semester -

- Take classes relevant to your emphasis area and start working on your project research. At this point, you will be in your advisor's hands.
- **MAKE SURE** you get your final transcript to the graduate school and double-check with Kris Hunnicut to make sure she has it.
- Fill out the GS2 form.
- Fill out the GS4 Diploma order form at <http://www.clemson.edu/gradweb/>
- Start applying for jobs. If working on a PhD is an option, you need to apply late fall/early spring.
- Form committee (your advisor will have good suggestions on who to pick)

Second Spring Semester -

- Order Cap, Gown, etc. (this should be done online or in the bookstore around the end of January/beginning of February)
- Wrap up your research.
- Fill out the MS presentation form from Kris Hunnicut at least 2 weeks prior to giving your presentation.
- Try to give a talk in GSS or somewhere else to practice your final presentation.
- Give Final Presentation
- Email Kris Hunnicut the final, *signed* pdf copy of your Master's Project/Thesis. If you do a Master's Thesis, you also need to submit it online to the graduate school.

DISCLAIMER: This schedule does not include all deadlines nor does it include by any means all possible combinations or contingencies that could arise in the course of pursuing a master's degree. It is meant to merely be a chronological compilation of helpful insights and does not officially represent the department, SIAM, GSS, or any single graduate student.

For official policy, please check with Dr. Kulasekera: mthgrad@clemson.edu

For the official graduate school deadline website, visit: <http://www.grad.clemson.edu/Deadlines.php>