Department of Food Science and Technology
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

MFT Student Guide

Department of Food Science and Technology

The University of Georgia

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This document serves as a guide for graduate students in the Department of Food Science and Technology. It incorporates many of the latest rules and policies of the Graduate School and the department. Each student is responsible for meeting all requirements as outlined in the University of Georgia Bulletin.

Additional information and forms can be found at the following websites:

- https://www.uga.edu/ (University of Georgia)
- https://foodscience.caes.uga.edu/ (Department of Food Science and Technology)
- https://grad.uga.edu/ (Graduate School)
- https://online.uga.edu(UGA Online for the MFT students)

I. General Information

A. Course Load

Students using university resources including faculty/staff time must register for a minimum of 3 hours, including the semester in which they complete all degree requirements. Registration deadlines are available at the Registrar's website.

B. Course Requirements

August 2026

Potential students for this non-thesis program are working professionals who may or may not have formal education in food science. Their previous degrees may have been in chemistry, biology, microbiology, nutrition, dietetics, culinary, chemical engineering, environmental sciences, or other related fields. To accommodate such working professionals, classes are offered asynchronously.

The Master of Food Technology degree program is offered in conjunction with the UGA Online office. It consists of at least 30 semester hours (15 required hours and 15 elective hours) of coursework, plus 3 hours of FDST 7007E: Directed Project in Food Science. The typical student working full-time can complete the coursework and directed project in 2-4 years, depending on the number of courses taken per term.

The Director of Graduate Studies will approve a program of study tailored to the student's professional needs. All courses are at the graduate level (6000 or higher). If, due to an extenuating circumstance, a student is unable to complete any one of the required courses, they can replace that course with an

additional elective course. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Graduate Studies.

The directed project will provide the student with research experience and training in problem solving, as well as experience in an in-depth analysis of a current topic in food science. At the end of the coursework and directed project.

This is a terminal degree program and will not typically meet the admission criteria for the UGA Ph.D. program in Food Science and Technology. Note: Students in this program are not eligible for graduate assistantship funding.

II. Steps to be Taken for Completion of the Program

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the following steps are taken at the proper time and in the proper sequence. All necessary forms are accessible from the Graduate School website.

A. Program of Study

M.F.T. students must submit a Program of Study Partial Plan in DegreeWorks by the end of the first week of their first semester. Students must submit a Program of Study Full Plan by the end of their second semester. The Program of Study form must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Graduate School.

B. Advisory/Examining Committee

Students select an advisor and an examining committee in consultation with the MFT Program Advisor. The advisor should be selected after completing no more than 21 credit hours of coursework. The examining committee will consist of at least three faculty members including the advisor.

The committee will assign a comprehensive literature review/research project on an assigned topic, which the student will present at the end of the M.F.T. program. Completion of the

directed project typically takes one to two semesters; however, students should register for FDST 7007E in the semester they expect to complete it.

C. Application for Graduation

A student must apply for graduation online in Athena by the end of the first week of classes in the semester in which the student intends to graduate. Prior to the graduation semester, a student can change the graduation date in Athena. If students need to change their graduation date to a later semester, they must email the Graduate School Office of Enrolled Student Services at gradinfo@uga.edu and request that the current graduation term be deleted. After it is deleted, the student must reapply for a future graduation term in Athena.

A graduate student who misses a graduation deadline by failing to submit the Application for Graduation will have the option of paying a single fee of $50 (check or money order in U.S. dollars) for late processing of all required forms. After the 45-day late period, no student will be added to the commencement roster for the current semester.

D. Final Examination

The candidate must pass a final online examination administered by the advisory/examining committee. The oral examination is administered by a committee of at least two faculty members. The results of this examination must be reported to the Graduate School by the Director of Graduate Studies.

If a student receives two or more negative votes on his/her exam/defense, the exam may be administered a second time, if recommended by at least 50% of the student's advisory committee. The time of the second exam/defense is established by the advisory committee. Failure to pass the second exam will result in dismissal from the M.F.T. program.

All requirements for the degree must be completed and reported to the Graduate School no later than one week prior to graduation.

E. Time Limit

All requirements for a professional master's degree must be completed within six years, beginning with the first registration for courses in the student's program of study. An extension of time may be granted only on conditions beyond the control of the student.

F. Exit Interview and Survey

When nearing completion of degree requirements, a student should schedule an exit interview with the department head and complete the online Graduate Exit Survey form.