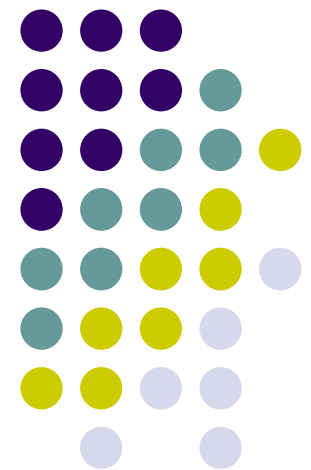
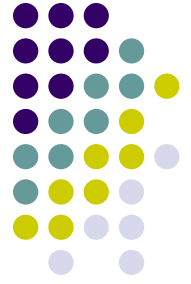


What is a Master of Science Degree?

Presented by Denis Wiesenburg

- Master's Education: A Guide for Faculty and Administrators.
Council of Graduate Schools 2005





Some basic questions?

How many manuscripts should a M.S. student publish from a Master's thesis?

- Three?
- Two?
- One?

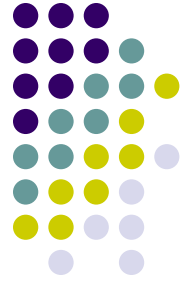
How long should it take a student to complete a M.S. degree in our programs in oceanography, marine biology or fisheries?



M.S. Common Standards

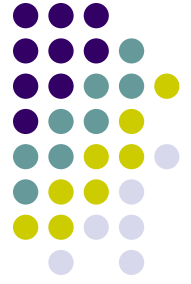
Graduates from master's degree programs should have developed the ability to:

- think logically and consistently
- integrate and synthesize knowledge
- access up-to-date knowledge and information within the discipline
- communicate in a clear, consistent, and logical manner, both orally and in writing
- understand the interrelationship between their discipline and others



Master's graduates are expected

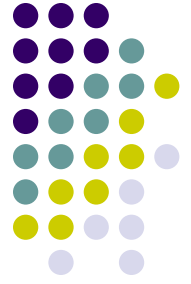
- To have gained knowledge and skills not only from course work, research and practicums, but also from varied experiences and perspectives brought to the program and shared among student, faculty, and practitioners.
- **Can you provide some examples?**



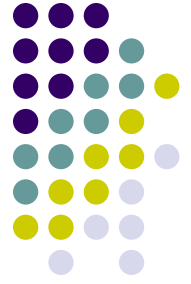
Capstone Experience

- Master's programs usually require a capstone or culminating experience that indicates the ability to synthesize material from course work and to apply information and knowledge to a specific issue or problem.
- The capstone experiences may be a thesis...
- Master's programs typically include an opportunity for the student to learn to present scholarly information in written and oral form to a variety of audiences.

A master's student who undertakes a thesis should be required:



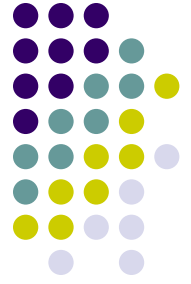
- to design the research project with the help of a faculty advisory committee,
- conduct the necessary background literature search,
- do the research,
- analyze the results,
- write the thesis, and
- communicate the results at an oral thesis defense.



Must the thesis be publishable?

- The thesis work will not necessarily be original research, but
- it should be a new application of ideas.
- The thesis need not be publishable to be acceptable.

- When should the thesis be publishable?



Process

The research problem should be well defined.

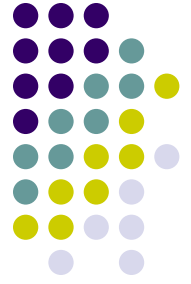
A thesis proposal should be prepared and agreed to by the student and the advisory committee.

The planned work should not be increased once the proposal is approved.

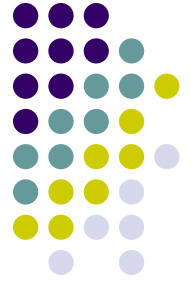
The plan work may be reduced by mutual agreement of the student and the advisory committee.

Should the student have a right to appeal a decision of the advisory committee?

Test



- It is the fundamental _____ of a University Professor to teach and mentor students.
- Faculty advisors who have the most impact on students are the ones who are most _____.
- It is not uncommon for me to have _____ student contact hours per week.



Answers

- It is the fundamental **privilege** of a University Professor to teach and mentor students.
- Faculty advisors who have the most impact on students are the ones who are most **accessible**.
- It is not uncommon then for me to have **15 - 20** student contact hours per week.

From a Texas A&M University Oceanography Tenure File 2007