



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Nutrition

Forming a Committee & Making a Degree Plan

Forming a Committee

1. Your committee needs to consist of at least 4 members, one of which is your PI.
2. Your committee must have at least one person external to the department (they can be within or outside of Texas A&M*).
3. Talk to your PI about what kind of expertise would be beneficial to your project - will you need a chemist? A statistician? Someone with easy access to a flow cytometer? Think about who might contribute most to your project, as well as to your professional development - who do you most want to learn from? Who will best be able to advise you about your career goals?
4. Invite members to your committee! Write an email to each of them detailing why you would like them to be a part of your PhD journey.
5. Once they accept, you will formally add them to your committee in DPSS.

*If you are adding a non-TAMU system member to your committee, please let Tyler or Serina know ASAP so we can get them added to DPSS.

Making a Degree Plan

1. Your degree plan will be submitted by logging in with your TAMU credentials at <https://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>. You will need to submit a degree plan by the spring semester of your second year of graduate school.
2. Talk to your committee about courses that are required for your degree, as well as electives they recommend you take that will contribute positively to your research.
3. Make sure all of the required courses for your degree (those listed in the graduate student handbook as requirements, like General Nutrition or Nutritional Biochemistry) are listed on your degree plan first, and then add in your electives. Only add electives you have already taken or that you will definitely take before you graduate*.
4. Fill in the rest of your required hours (96 hours total if you came in with a bachelors, 64 hours total if you came in with a masters) with research credit (NUTR 691). DO NOT fill in any hours past your required credits (96 or 64 hours). It is fine for your degree to take you longer than what is on your degree plan, but making it shorter is harder!

*It is easier to replace research credits with course credit after you've submitted your degree plan than it is to take a class off of your degree plan entirely.

If you have any questions or concerns, email Tyler Fadal (tyler.fadal@ag.tamu.edu) or Serina DeSalvio (serina.desalvio@ag.tamu.edu).