REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF M.S. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE

The Major Professor, working in consultation with the student, suggests the composition of the M.S. Comprehensive Examination Committee, which is then approved by the Educational Advisory Committee. The purpose of this form is to assist the student and his/her Major Professor in requesting formation of the Comprehensive Examination Committee.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee consists of four members. At least three of the members, including the Chair, must be members of the Botany and Plant Sciences faculty or a Cooperative Extension Specialist within the Department. No more than two of the members may have also served on the Guidance Committee for the student. Only under unusual circumstances will the Major Professor be approved as a member of the Comprehensive Examination Committee.

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate the student's understanding of botany or plant sciences, with an emphasis on one major area and, to ensure that students have a reasonable breadth of knowledge, one or more minor areas that are not subdisciplines of the major area. The major area must reflect the student's degree program (Botany vs Plant Science) and can be selected from the first column of the appropriate list below. Minor areas can be selected from either column below, and need not match the degree program. Alternative areas (within Botany/Plant Science or in other disciplines) will be approved if adequate justification is provided in a memo. For example, a student in the Botany program could choose Plant Physiology as the major area and Plant Ecology and Crop Physiology as two minor areas, but Plant Biochemistry would not be an acceptable minor area because it is listed as a subdiscipline of the major area. The student will be expected to have an advanced (graduate level) understanding of the major and minor areas, but not necessarily of every subdiscipline of the major area.

M.S. Botany

Major Area

- Plant Physiology
- Ecology and Conservation Biology
- Plant Cell Biology and Development
- Plant Genetics
- Plant Molecular Biology
- Systematics and Evolution
- Anatomy and Morphology

Subdisciplines

- Whole Plant Physiology, Physiological Ecology, Plant Biochemistry
- Conservation Biology, Plant Ecology
- Plant Cell Biology, Plant Development
- Cytogenetics, Population Genetics, Quantitative Genetics, Genomics
- Plant Molecular Biology
- Ethnobotany, Systematics, Evolution
- Anatomy, Morphology

M.S. Plant Sciences

Major Area

- Applied Plant Genetics
- Plant Physiology
- Applied Ecology
- Pest Management

Subdisciplines

- Biotechnology, Conservation Genetics, Plant Breeding
- Whole Plant Physiology, Plant/Soil/Water Interaction, Crop Physiology,
  Crop Production, Postharvest Physiology
- Conservation Biology, Restoration Ecology, Conservation Genetics, Invasion Biology
- Weed Science, Plant Pathology, Entomology, Nematology

To request formation of the Comprehensive Examination Committee, on the form below check the student's program and enter the major and minor areas. List the suggested faculty members and at least two alternates, and specify the area in which each committee member will examine the student. Before submitting the form, the student should contact each prospective committee member and determine that they are willing to examine the student in the specified area.

Both the student and the major professor should sign the completed form, which should then be given to the Graduate Secretary for consideration by the Educational Advisory Committee.

Student's Program (check one) M.S. Botany _____________ M.S. Plant Science ____________

Major Area ____________________________

Minor Area ____________________________ Second Minor Area (optional) ____________________________

Committee Composition:

Examination Area | Suggested Faculty Member | Alternate Faculty Member

__________________ | ________________________ | ________________________

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Graduate Student Signature ____________________ Date ____________________

Major Professor Signature ____________________ Date ____________________

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