

The M.A. Handbook

This handbook is the faculty and student guide to the policies and procedures of the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies at The Ohio State University. Additional important material about graduate study at The Ohio State University can be found in the Graduate School's [Graduate School Handbook](#).

1. DEGREE PROGRAM

The Director and Assistant Director (Program Advisor) of the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (CSEEEES), in cooperation with CSEEEES staff, will aid new students in first semester registration and in the selection of an appropriate faculty advisor. All incoming graduate students are required to meet with the Program Advisor to discuss their future plan of study by the end of the first week of classes. Although a student may later decide to change their area of concentration, they should begin by choosing one no later than the end of the second semester of study.

At the beginning of every semester, each student must obtain approval from the Program Advisor for their program of study for that semester. By the end of the first academic year of study, the student should commit to either a thesis or non-thesis track. It is possible to switch to the non-thesis track at a later point, but switching *from* non-thesis to thesis is more difficult and might add time to degree completion.

a. Advising

Each CSEEEES M.A. candidate has two advisors:

- The CSEEEES Director is the advisor of record for all first-year students and advises students on various fields and faculty research interests so that they take full advantage of the interdisciplinary program. In consultation with the director and based on students' field of interest, students must select their final faculty advisor with whom they will work on their exam or thesis; and
- A program advisor (the CSEEEES Assistant Director) who oversees the students' progress towards completion of their degree; checks the fulfillment of requirements for area of specialization; thesis or non-thesis option; and manages the students' overall academic experience.

b. Types of Graduate Courses applicable to the CSEEEES M.A. Degree

Courses applicable to the degree include East European and Eurasian area studies courses, which are defined as courses that have at least 25% of content directly about the region through required lectures, readings,

projects, etc. Each semester CSEEEES publishes a course list of all known area studies courses being offered across the university. If a student wishes to take a course that is not listed, they must get approval from the Program Advisor by submitting a syllabus and communications with the professor confirming that the student will be able to meet the 25% requirement through individual projects. Students should be aware that undergraduate courses are also listed in our course list, but 3000-level and below courses *cannot* count toward the M.A. degree and should not be taken.

4000-level Courses

These courses are usually reserved for advanced undergraduates but some 4000-level courses are open to graduate students when the course falls outside of their home department. Because no more than two 4000-level courses can count toward the M.A. degree, students may discuss with a faculty member whether the specific 4000-level course can be taken for graduate credit through graduate-level designation. 4000-level courses with a Slavic designation will not count for graduate credit and should not be taken at that level. Please check with the professor of the course for the possibility of registering for 3 credits of Slavic 5193 and to find out what additional work will be required for that higher level designation. Each professor has a class number for which students can register with the help of the SEELC Academic Program Coordinator.

5000-level Courses

5000-level courses enroll both graduate and undergraduate students and are usually taught in a basic lecture/discussion format.

6000-level Courses

6000-level courses are generally graduate reading courses that focus on important literature in specific fields of study. Such courses should give the student wide-ranging bibliographical knowledge and an introduction to the major interpretative issues and controversies in the given field.

Slavic 6000

This professionalization forum meets five to seven times per semester and offers one credit hour. The forum consists of cohort-building activities; professionalization through attending lectures and workshops related to the field and/or providing specific skill and information sets such as resume-writing, job interviews, etc; and leadership opportunities as vice president (always filled by a Center student) and/or treasurer of the affiliated student organization. CSEEEES students may count up to two

credit hours of Slavic 6000 towards their degree.

Arts and Sciences 6000

This one-credit course introduces graduate students to strategies for discovering a variety of career paths; assessing how a job might fit one's interests, skills, and values; cultivating networks; and entering a profession. Students who enroll and focus on careers utilizing their language and area studies skills may count this course for one credit hour towards their degree.

7000- and 8000-level Courses

These courses are graduate seminars in which students conduct research in primary source materials and integrate the results of their research with pertinent secondary sources. The designation "seminar" means that students will usually submit their work to the constructive criticism of their peers as well as that of the instructor.

-999 Courses

Courses that have a four digit course code ending in -999 are frequently offered by different departments for thesis and dissertation research. Students should check with the pertinent department and faculty members to determine whether they can enroll in such courses.

Ineligible Courses

Students are not able to take for graduate credit a course taught by a current graduate student. They also may not receive credit for courses at the 3000-level and below.

c. Requirements for the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

i. Language

Knowledge of a Slavic, East European, or Central Asian language sufficient for use as a professional and research tool is indispensable. Language course options usually include Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Czech, Modern Greek, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Turkish, Uzbek, Yiddish, or other language with the approval of the Program Advisor. Beginning and intermediate students are urged to take intensive language courses and to continue language training through the summer. An intensive language program may count for regular language courses and allow a student to opt out of language courses during the year, although maintenance courses and other activities are recommended in order not to lose skills. Students are required to

have completed at least four levels (to the end of fourth year) of Russian or two levels (to the end of second year) of another language by the time the M.A. degree is awarded. When possible, students are encouraged to take a second language and should plan their language coursework in close consultation with the Program Advisor who must approve each student's language program.

In addition, students are required to take a language entrance and exit examination to demonstrate that they have achieved a level adequate for their career/academic goals.

Native speakers of a language of the region who enter the program or students with exceptional proficiency in both reading and speaking are expected to take a second language. Non-native speakers of English must demonstrate sufficient English-language ability to participate in class discussion, perform well on an oral thesis defense, and write effective papers.

ii. Coursework

The degree requires a minimum of 38 credit hours of graded coursework (in addition to the language requirements) distributed over three or more disciplines (i.e. departments) in which Slavic, East European, and/or Central Asian area studies courses are offered. Students must choose courses in at least two different colleges or divisions within the College of Arts and Sciences: the Humanities (e.g. History), Social and Behavioral Sciences (e.g. Political Science), Business, Law, Architecture, etc.

By the end of their second semester in the program, students need to choose one geographical area of interest (Russia, Central/Eastern Europe, Balkans, Central Asia, etc.) and/or a discipline of concentration. Although this area and/or discipline should provide the focus for the student's course of study, they will be required also to take courses in other areas and/or disciplines, in keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the program.

38 credit hours include:

- Three credits in Slavic 6501: Introduction to Slavic Studies;
- At least 9 credit hours in the student's area and/or discipline of concentration;

- At least 9 credit hours at the 6000- to 7000-level;
- No more than six credit hours at the 4000-level; and
- Up to two credits from the Slavic professionalization forum and/or Arts and Sciences Career Exploration.

iii. Thesis vs. Non-Thesis (Exam) Option

a. Thesis Track

The CSEEEES M.A. degree offers both a thesis and non-thesis option. Students interested in pursuing a career in academia and who wish to continue to a Ph.D. program are encouraged to follow the thesis option. The thesis may also serve as training for NGO or government work where professionals will do research and write white papers or other policy papers.

The M.A. thesis is based on research in primary sources and should be planned in conjunction with the faculty advisor and thesis committee. A minimum of two “M status” faculty members are required for a thesis committee, but the committee can contain more faculty depending on the subject and the needs of the student. Please check with your proposed committee members or CSEEEES staff to determine their faculty status. The appropriate length of the thesis is determined by the faculty advisor and field. A one-hour oral examination (thesis defense) is also required. Thesis track students may register for up to two semesters total (six credit hours) of research and/or thesis-writing credit with written permission from the Program Advisor.

b. Non-thesis (Exam) Track

For the non-thesis option, students are required to pass a four-hour written master's examination. This exam will consist of two hours devoted to the student's area of concentration, while the remaining two hours of the exam will be based on area studies curriculum and courses taken by the student. The exam is developed and evaluated by the student's faculty advisor (50%) and two additional examination committee members (25% of the exam each).

d. Requirements for the Mid-Career Professional M.A. Track in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies

The Mid-Career Professional M.A. Track is designed to be completed in three semesters. It is administered like the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies with the Director of CSEEEES serving as the students'

default advisor until they select a faculty advisor in alignment with their specialization. The Assistant Director of CSEEEES will serve as the Program Advisor. Due to the reduced time frame of the degree, students should choose their specialization and faculty advisor by the beginning of their second semester in the program.

i. Language

Students pursuing the Mid-Career Professional M.A. Track are expected to enter the program already possessing either four years of Russian language study, two years of another relevant language, or the equivalent. They may continue to take language coursework to maintain their language skills or may study a second language as desired.

ii. Coursework

30 credit hours of East European and Eurasian area studies coursework is required for the Mid-Career Track, a reduction of eight credit hours from the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies since accepted students will have significant career experience in the region and advanced language skills. Students in the Mid-Career track will still have to distribute coursework across three or more disciplines and two or more colleges or divisions within the College of Arts and Sciences.

By the beginning of their second semester, students in the Mid-Career Track should select a geographical area of interest (Russia, Central/Eastern Europe, Balkans, Central Asia, etc.) and/or a discipline of concentration. Although this area and/or discipline should provide the focus for the student's course of study, they will be required also to take courses in other areas and/or disciplines, in keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the program. Students should also select their faculty advisor at this time.

30 credit hours include:

- Three credits in Slavic 6501: Introduction to Slavic Studies;
- At least 9 credit hours in the student's area and/or discipline of concentration;
- At least 9 credit hours at the 6000- to 7000-level;
- No more than six credit hours at the 4000-level; and
- Up to six credit hours of independent study credit hours to prepare for a master's examination.

iii. Non-thesis (Exam) Track

Because of the reduced time frame for the degree, students will only have the option of completing the degree by passing a four-hour master's examination. This exam will consist of two hours devoted to the student's area of concentration, while the remaining two hours of the exam will be based on area studies curriculum and courses taken by the student. The exam is developed and evaluated by the student's faculty advisor (50%) and two additional examination committee members (25% of the exam each).

e. Dual Degrees

The Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies offers official dual degree programs with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and the Center for Bioethics that allow graduate students to receive an M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies and a Master's of Public Administration or M.A. in Bioethics in a reduced timeframe. Students may also pursue dual degrees with other programs but will have to complete each degree's requirements separately.

i. Coursework for MPA

The dual degree in Slavic studies and public policy requires students to complete 19 credit hours of distinct M.A. coursework in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, 26 hours in the Glenn College, and then 26 credit hours of dual coursework.

Within the 19 credit hours for the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, students must meet the same coursework requirements, including:

- Three credits in Slavic 6501: Introduction to Slavic Studies;
- At least 9 credit hours in the student's area and/or discipline of concentration;
- Courses from three separate disciplines and from two different colleges or divisions within the College of Arts and Sciences;
- At least 9 credit hours at the 6000- to 7000-level; and
- No more than six credit hours at the 4000-level.

ii. Coursework for M.A. in Bioethics

The dual degree in Slavic studies and bioethics requires students to complete 19 credit hours of distinct M.A. coursework in Slavic, East

European and Eurasian Studies, 18 credit hours specific to Bioethics (including the bioethics core courses) and 16 dual credit hours.

Within the 19 credit hours for the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, students must meet the same coursework requirements, including:

- Three credits in Slavic 6501: Introduction to Slavic Studies;
- At least 9 credit hours in the student's area and/or discipline of concentration;
- Courses from three separate disciplines and from two different colleges or divisions within the College of Arts and Sciences;
- At least 9 credit hours at the 6000- to 7000-level; and
- No more than six credit hours at the 4000-level.

The exit requirement for this program is a two-semester capstone sequence—three credit hours of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and a three-credit Bioethics capstone—represents the culminating project for the dual degree. Students choose co-advisors, one from each program, who will serve on the committee for the thesis. A final committee of four faculty members is needed, with two representing each program.

iii. Language

Students in the dual degree programs must meet the same language requirements as for the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies.

f. Study Abroad / Intern Abroad

Students, especially those without prior living and study experience in their country of primary study, will be strongly encouraged to take advantage of one or more study abroad/internship opportunities.

g. Time Limitation

Students must meet all Ohio State University Graduate School requirements for completion of degree requirements in a timely manner and must complete the M.A. degree within a five-year period. Students pursuing a dual degree have six years to complete all requirements.

2. STUDENT ASSESSMENT

As part of its commitment to student learning and assessment, the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, in conjunction with the Graduate School, will assess student learning through monitoring learning goals. The

Program Advisor will work with students to understand the learning goals that are being measured and complete any rubrics being used to evaluate student learning.

3. ACADEMIC CONDUCT

All students should be aware of the Code of Student Conduct and abide by its rules while in the program. All instances of misconduct will be dealt with following university procedures and rules, including plagiarism.

The full [Code of Student Conduct](#) can be found on the [Committee on Academic Misconduct](#)'s webpage.

4. CSEES M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies Administrative Timeline

Please note: this timeline only refers to the requirements for the M.A. in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. Students receiving Fellowships to fund their studies may have additional requirements and deadlines.

Beginning of each semester:

- Obtain approval by Program Advisor for that semester's program of study

Within first two semesters of study:

- Designate a Faculty Advisor
- Choose a geographical area and/or discipline of concentration

By the end of the first academic year of study:

- Choose the thesis or non-thesis track and notify the Program Advisor
- Meet with the Faculty Advisor and plan the structure of the remaining course of study

Two semesters before anticipated graduation:

- Meet with the Program Advisor to assess progress toward degree and make necessary adjustments in course of study

Last semester:

- Submit Application to Graduate Form to the Graduate School no later than the third Friday of the final semester
- Complete the master's examination and/or thesis

5. CSEES Mid-Career Track Administrative Timeline

Beginning of each semester:

- Obtain approval by Program Advisor for that semester's program of study

Within first two semesters of study:

- Designate a Faculty Advisor
- Choose a geographical area and/or discipline of concentration
- Meet with the Faculty Advisor and plan the structure of the remaining course of study

At the End of the Second Semester of Study:

- Meet with the Program Advisor to assess progress toward degree and make necessary adjustments in course of study

Last semester:

- Submit Application to Graduate Form to the Graduate School no later than the third Friday of the final semester
- Complete the master's examination