Master of Plant Protection & Plant Management

GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Revised Fall 2025

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

A degree combining the expertise of
Crop and Soil Sciences, Plant Pathology and Entomology.

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Program Information

The Master of Plant Protection and Pest Management (MPPPM) degree is an interdisciplinary, non-thesis professional degree program jointly offered by the departments of Entomology, Crop & Soil Sciences, and Plant Pathology. This program equips students with a comprehensive knowledge base and the technical skills to develop integrated pest management systems for urban and rural environments. The MPPPM degree emphasizes practical, hands-on learning, preparing graduates for immediate impact in the field of plant protection and pest management. The curriculum is designed to provide students with opportunities for learning in the classroom, field, lab, and with leaders in agriculture.

Students will take courses in all three areas, fulfilling competencies related to Entomology, Crop & Soil Sciences (with focuses on Weed Science and Agronomy), and Plant Pathology. Graduate students participate in diverse activities relevant to the profession that enhance their abilities to communicate with lay and scientific audiences and prepare for employment. Students will learn how to critically read and present the literature in their field. Students will be proficient in solving the types of pest management problems routinely encountered by growers, extension agents, and other agricultural professionals, as well as urban pest control. Students will understand and be able to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) using a blend of pest control strategies, including pesticides, transgenic crops, mechanical management, cultural operations, and biological control. Graduates will demonstrate comprehensive, multidisciplinary training in the IPM of insect, plant disease, and weed pests of agricultural, commercial, and home commodities. Students graduating from the program often secure job placement in, but not limited to working in IPM, the Crop Protection industry, and Extension.

History of the Program

The MPPPM program has a long history at the University of Georgia. It was initiated in 1973 by Dr. Floyd Hendrix in the Department of Plant Pathology. MPPPM was the first professional degree program in IPM in the USA and still is one of less than five similar curricula in the USA. The first MPPPM graduate coordinator was Dr. Wiley Garrett in the Department of Plant Pathology who served in this position from 1973 to 1992. The first graduating MPPPM student, who was advised by John All from the Department of Entomology, was Glenn Hammes who went on to have a full, exemplary career at DuPont Crop Protection. Dr. John All took over the coordinator position in 1992 and served until his retirement in 2008. Up until this time, the MPPPM program was primarily based on the Athens campus.

In 2008, Dr. David Langston, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist on the Tifton campus took over as coordinator and served until 2014. Dr. David Riley in the Department of Entomology at the Tifton campus was the coordinator from 2014 to 2019. Through Drs. Langston and Riley's leadership, the MPPPM program grew with steadily increasing number of students, especially on the Tifton campus. In 2018, the MPPPM program was expanded to students on the Griffin campus. The program is coordinated by a six-member Coordinating Committee consisting of faculty from each location (Athens, Griffin, Tifton) and each department (Entomology, Crop and Soil Sciences, and Plant Pathology). In 2019, Dr. Jean Williams-Woodward in the Department of

Plant Pathology and located in Athens became the Program Coordinator. In 2024, Dr. Nick Basinger in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, also located in Athens, became the Program Coordinator.

General Information

Faculty Advisor

Graduate students need to identify a faculty advisor by the end of the first semester. The Graduate Coordinator and the Graduate Coordinator Assistant can assist with course selections during the first semester in the absence of a faculty advisor. No faculty member is required to serve as the major professor for any student. Prior approval is required for a faculty advisor outside of Crop & Soil Sciences, Entomology or Plant Pathology.

Graduate Coordinator

The Graduate Coordinator acts as a liaison between the Graduate School and the MPPPM program. The Graduate Coordinator's duties are to sign documents regarding graduate student activities and maintain official graduate student program documents. The current Graduate Coordinator for MPPPM is Dr. Nick Basinger, Associate Professor, Crop & Soil Sciences.

Coordinating Committee

ATHENS CAMPUS	
Nick Basinger Crop & Soil Sciences (CRSS) nicholas.basinger@uga.edu 706-542-9810	
William Hudson Entomology (ENTO) wghudson@uga.edu 706-542-9856	
GRIFFIN CAMPUS	

James Buck Plant Pathology (PATH) jwbuck@uga.edu 770-412-4098	
David Buntin Entomology (ENTO) gbuntin@uga.edu 770-412-4713	
TIFTON CAMPUS	
Alejandra Madrid Plant Pathology (PATH) a.jimenez@uga.edu 229-386-3372	
Alton Sparks Entomology (ENTO) asparks@uga.edu 229-386-3424	

General Expectations of all Students

Not only will graduate students be learning new techniques and information, but graduate school is also a period when students get to hone their scientific reasoning, organizational, and team-working skills. To gain full advantage of the experience, students should take ownership of their education and acknowledge that they have the primary responsibility for the successful completion of their degree. Faculty advisors are there to advise students on what actions may help them to achieve their future goals. However, students are responsible for the final actions related to their degree, including ensuring that all paperwork, plan of study, class registration,

scholarship information (including TAP), financial commitments, applications for graduation, and any other actions needed to graduate are completed.

Admission

There are typically four routes to enter the MPPPM program:

1. Post-graduate
    a. Students who already have a bachelor's degree and will be financing their own education, typically referred to as self-pay;
2. Post-graduate on Assistantship
    a. Students who already hold a bachelor's degree may secure funding by working with a faculty advisor who agrees to support their studies through an assistantship. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact and obtain a formal commitment of funding from the faculty advisor. This funding arrangement typically includes a tuition waiver. In return, the student is expected to fulfill a predetermined amount of work, as agreed upon with the advisor, throughout the duration of their studies;
3. Post-graduate on the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)
    a. Students who already hold a bachelor's degree and are employed by UGA may utilize (TAP), a benefit available to UGA employees, to fund their studies;
4. Double Dawgs program
    a. Undergraduate students in their sophomore or junior year may choose to pursue the 4+1 Double Dawgs program, which allows them to earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in five years or less.

To begin the admission process, please go the UGA Graduate School website and select "Apply Now". Follow the instructions for your particular category, e.g., "Domestic Application".

Program Requirements for Admission

MPPPM students are required to complete 33 graduate credit hours. To be admitted to the MPPPM program, applicants must:

- Have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution with a 3.0 grade point average (out of 4.0);
- Current resume;
- Three letters of reference;
- Statement of Purpose (one page introduction of who you are, your background, preparation and training, and what you hope to achieve with your MPPPM degree)

Additionally, students must have the following prerequisite courses:

- Biology I and II
- Introduction to Plant Pathology
- At least one Chemistry class is strongly encouraged but not required

Assistantships

Graduate Research assistantships **ARE NOT guaranteed** for MPPPM students. The assistantships provided to students come through the student's faculty advisor's main department. The type of assistantship offered to a student depends on the needs of the academic or administrative unit, the qualifications of the individual student, and the availability of funds. Whenever possible, the duties assigned to a graduate assistant should be relevant to the graduate program and the professional goals of the student. All offer letters related to an assistantship will come through the faculty advisor's main department, and levels of assistantship support are up to the faculty advisor based on funding. Students receiving support should at least receive the minimum level of Graduate School required support. All students will still pay mandatory graduates student fees. Please see the Bursar's page for additional information on these fees. In addition, all graduate students on graduate assistantships are required to enroll in a mandatory health insurance program (or opt out) that is partially subsidized by the University. Additional information on health insurance can be found on the Human Resources web page.

Work Requirements

Assistantships are part-time jobs to help students defray the cost of their education ***and thus unrelated to their internship or research***. Students on assistantships are required to complete additional work to satisfy the hours for an assistantship (some weeks may require more; some may require fewer). The type and schedule of work is solely at the discretion of the faculty advisor.

Other students in the MPPPM program work full-time and are working their way through the program by participating in the UGA TAP program. Students participating in this program are already employees of UGA and have limits on the number of course credit hours that they are able to take. In the case of a TAP student, work is required with UGA to continue to benefit from TAP.

Students not on Assistantship (self-pay) or TAP are not required to meet any work requirement. Students may take other jobs on campus, working in labs or other jobs off campus. These students typically are self-pay students who are working their way through the program.

Double Dawgs Program

The MPPPM program is also part of the **UGA Double Dawgs dual degree (4 +1) program**. This program allows students to integrate a 4-year Bachelor's degree with a 1-year Master's degree. Undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, Agriscience and Environmental Systems (AES) or Environmental Resource Science (ERS) can apply to the Double Dawg program to also pursue their Master's in plant Protection and Pest Management. Coursework toward the master's degree begins in the undergraduate student's junior year. It is highly advised that if a dual degree is desired, students reach out to the MPPPM Graduate Coordinator or the Graduate Coordinator Assistant to ensure a smooth transition into the Double Dawg program.

Thesis

The MPPPM is a non-thesis degree. Students are required to write a comprehensive internship report approved by the MPPPM Committee. Students should work closely with their faculty advisor on the completion of the internship, analysis of data, and writing of the internship report. Reports should be thoroughly reviewed and vetted by the student's faculty advisor before submission to the committee.

Internship Requirement

Students must complete an internship in some area of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and write an internship report prior to their last semester of attendance. The expectation with this internship report is that students collect some data related to a plant protection discipline and demonstrate a basic understanding of the data collection, analysis, and presentation, and can speak in lay terms about their internship experience. The internship provides students with an opportunity to conduct research or explore another aspect of IPM of interest to the student.

Since the MPPPM program is a professional degree, an internship is required instead of research for a thesis. The internship is designed to strengthen a student's background in integrated pest management and to provide practical experience, such as with a research scientist, a pesticide company, or the Cooperative Extension Service. Prior to the internship, the student will meet with their faculty advisor and discuss such things as the general mission of the employer, the nature of anticipated work, and goals of the institution related to integrated pest management. These and other types of information will need to be collected during the internship for inclusion in a written report. The internship project should also be approved by the MPPPM Graduate Coordinator to make sure the planned internship is appropriate for the program. If possible, the student and major professor should meet 4 to 6 weeks after initiation of employment and evaluate the student's progress. It may be desirable to alter the original goals and to be observant for different integrated pest management principles during the remainder of the internship. The recommended deadline for completing the internship is the 1st week of the last term of the degree.

Internship reports are due to the MPPPM Graduate Coordinator by:

FALL SEMESTER: October 1

SPRING SEMESTER: March 1

SUMMER SEMESTER: June 25

The internship report should be reasonably concise, substantial in character, and reflective of biological principles related to integrated pest management. The report should demonstrate to the MPPPM coordinating committee that the student understands basic and practical implications of integrated pest management and has the ability to: (i) organize information in a

clear manner, (ii) produce a professionally useful and technically acceptable report (supervisor can verify that privileged information is being used properly), and (iii) present material in a well-structured form, written in acceptable English. The report should include:

1. Title: The title should be descriptive of the nature of the work.
2. Title page: This should include title, name of student, previous academic degree(s), date of internship, name of employer, name of supervisor, degree program.
3. Approval page: Signatures of all members of the MPPPM coordinating committee and internship supervisor(s).
4. Table of contents
5. Introduction: This section should cover two important points: (i) a description of the employer, its mission, and how its mission relates to integrated pest management, and (ii) the anticipated goals of the student (it may be desirable to prepare an initial draft of this).
6. Description of work: Details should be presented concerning the nature of day-to-day activities and various procedures used during the internship. Methods for conducting the project should be given.
7. Results: Factual information (data) of accomplishments and "failures" should be presented in this section. The information may be either, or both, objective or subjective, and it may be presented in text, tables, and/or figures. Correct statistical analysis should be conducted on any data collected during the project.
8. Discussion: The Results information should be evaluated, interpreted, and discussed. The discussion should demonstrate independent thinking and an understanding of the principles of integrated pest management. Although not required, references may be used to support conclusions.
9. Summary: In this optional section, the internship can be evaluated: how was it important, problems encountered, how could it be improved, etc.
10. Literature cited (if needed): Cite pertinent references.
11. Appendix: Include information that is not suitable for the Results section.

The report will be typed on 8.5" x 11" paper. The margins and page numbers should correspond to the Graduate School requirements for theses and dissertations. Section headings, tables, and figures should follow the guidelines set forth by a discipline journal. The length of the report should be commensurate with the internship; the number of pages is not very significant, but the report(s) should be representative of the nature and variety of activities performed. The use of generative AI for the writing and completion of the internship report is not permitted in the completion of the student's internship report.

NOTE: Even if a grade of "S" (satisfactory) has been assigned to the CRSS/ENTO/PATH 6130 Internship course by the Instructor of Record/faculty advisor, the Graduate Coordinator

cannot inform the Graduate School that the internship requirement is complete until the Coordinating Committee has reviewed and approved of the final report. Traditionally, the Instructor of Record/faculty advisor assigns a grade of "I" (incomplete) until the MPPPM coordinating committee has approved the internship report. Furthermore, students should be expected to complete the report during the semester following the internship semester. Also note that students on academic probation may not enroll for an internship.

Please see appendix for example abstracts.

Exit Exams

MPPPM degree program has a final examination requirement for all students. The purpose of the examination is to measure educational capabilities that encompass the entire program of the student. The examination consists of three discipline-specific written or oral exams that are taken by the end of the semester of intended graduation and after the coursework in Area I has been completed. The exit exams for plant pathology, entomology, and weed science will be administered by the MPPPM Coordinating Committee members at the UGA campus location where the student is housed. The exams will cover specific information and general concepts learned during the overall graduate program, including prerequisites and core courses in Area I. **The student must have the internship report approved before taking the final exam to complete the requirements for graduation**. It is recommended that the student talk with their faculty advisor and Coordinating Committee members about the range of pest management information with which they should be familiar during their program and to request any recommended reading in preparation for the exams. **Students should contact the members of the MPPPM Coordinating Committee for their location to schedule their exit examinations no later than March 30, July 10, and November 1 for spring, summer, and fall semesters, respectively, and after their internship is approved.**

Leave of Absence

A leave of absence provides a mechanism for students experiencing unusual circumstances to be exempt temporarily from the continuous enrollment policy. A leave of absence requires approval of the Graduate Program Coordinator and the dean of Graduate School. A leave of absence will be granted only for good cause, such as serious medical and health-related issues, major financial and employment issues, pregnancy, childbirth, childcare, elder care, and other significant family issues, and other major personal circumstances that interfere with the ability to undertake graduate study. An approved leave of absence does not stop the clock unless the leave is granted for pregnancy, childbirth or adoption: time on leave counts toward any University, Graduate School, or program time limits pertaining to the degree being sought. Students initiate a leave of absence by filling out *the Request for Leave of Absence from Graduate Enrollment (G133) form.*

Course Registration, CRN Numbers, and Minimum Enrollment

Each campus has different CRNs that correlate with fees associated with each campus. If you cannot locate a course on your campus please contact the instructor of the course.

Ensure you register for the correct section. You will notice each course is listed in triplicate in Athena, differing only by CRN number. The three sections correspond to the three campuses. Register for the section with the CRN that corresponds to your campus (Athens, Griffin, or Tifton). Clicking on the course title will tell you which campus each section corresponds to. Registering for the incorrect campus can affect your student fees, and your access to the desired course.

Graduate First Seminar

MPPPM students are **not required** to take the GRSC 7001 GradFirst 1-credit hour seminar.

Continuous Enrollment Policy

All enrolled students pursuing graduate degrees at the University of Georgia must maintain minimum continuous enrollment from matriculation until completion of all degree requirements. Continuous enrollment is defined as registering for a minimum of three (3) graduate or professional course credits in at least two semesters per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer), including the 3 hours of graduate credit that is required for registration during the

semester in which degree requirements are complete, until the degree is attained or status as a degree-seeking graduate student is terminated. UGA employees pursuing graduate degrees under the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and students in non-degree status are exempt from this graduate enrollment policy. However, these students remain under the pre-existing policy and will lose registration eligibility if non-enrolled for three consecutive terms. If registration eligibility is lost, these students must reapply to their programs and pay the applicable application fee to continue graduate study.

Students who are only working towards finishing incomplete coursework are exempt from the graduate enrollment policy IF: 1) they have completed all other requirements for degree completion, and 2) the work required to convert the incomplete grade does not require the use of University facilities, resources, and faculty time aside from grading the work. Students who receive incompletes in directed study, capstone courses, thesis/dissertation credits or other courses involving significant continuing faculty time and University resources should register for GRSC 9270 in order to convert their incomplete grade. More information about this policy can be found on the Graduate School Website.

Time Limit

Master's degree students must complete all degree requirements withing six years from the semester of initial enrollment. Students facing extenuating circumstances (ex. medical issues, military service) may petition for an extension, which will require support from their faculty advisor, graduate coordinator, and academic unit head.

Graduate Student Files

Graduate student files are maintained in the Graduate Coordinator's office in Athens. The Graduate Coordinator and Graduate Coordinator Assistant are responsible for their safekeeping.

Satisfactory GPA

Students with a cumulative graduate course GPA below 3.0 for two consecutive terms are placed on academic probation by the Graduate School. They then must make a 3.0 or higher GPA (in graduate courses) every succeeding semester until the cumulative graduate GPA is 3.0 or above. If they make below a 3.0 semester graduate GPA while on probation, they are dismissed. When students repeat a graduate course, the last grade will be utilized to calculate the cumulative graduate GPA that is used for probation, dismissal, admission to candidacy and graduation. Grades of S, U, I, and V will not be used in calculating the cumulative graduate average. However, when a grade of I converts to F, this may result in an action of probation or dismissal for the semester in which the conversion takes place, even if the student is not registered for the semester in which it converted.

Unsatisfactory Grades

No grade below C (2.0) will be accepted as part of a program of study for a graduate degree. In addition, degree-seeking students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to be eligible for graduation.

When a graduate course is repeated, the last grade received will be used in calculating the cumulative graduate average that is used for probation, dismissal, admission to candidacy, and graduation.

Students will not be approved for graduation if they have a grade of I or ER which, when changed to a recorded grade, could cause the graduate grade point average to fall below the minimum required for graduation.

Dismissal from Graduate Program

A student who fails to make adequate progress toward degree objectives may be dismissed from the graduate program by the MPPPM Committee, in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. Additionally, failure to maintain satisfactory academic performance for more than one semester will result in automatic dismissal by the Graduate School.

Students may be placed on probation or dismissed by their academic program at the end of any semester for the following reasons:

- Inadequate academic progress
- Failure to meet program requirements (academic, professional)
- Failure to adhere to the honor code and/or issues with student conduct
- Title IX/Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment violation
- Research misconduct
- Violation of ethical (professional) standards in program's handbook (or professional society)
- No clear path to degree

Dismissal Appeal to the MPPPM Committee

If the dismissal is upheld by the MPPPM Committee, a student dismissed from the MPPPM graduate program has 15 days during which they may submit an appeal letter to the Graduate Coordinator. Upon receipt of the appeal letter, the Graduate Coordinator will appoint a committee of three faculty members not serving on the MPPPM Committee to handle the appeal. The appointed committee will decide within 30 days of receiving the appeal, based on information obtained from the student, their faculty advisor, and the MPPPM Committee.

Dismissal Appeal to the College

All UGA students have the right to appeal academic decisions or to ask for an exception to a university policy. The appropriate route to take depends on the appeal. See the Routing of Academic Appeals for a complete list. In CAES, we review appeals or petitions regarding degree program requirements, course grades, and return from academic dismissal. Students wishing to submit a petition should carefully consult the CAES Guidelines for Student Petitions.

Dismissal Appeal to the Graduate School

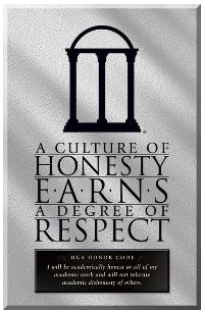
A dismissal upheld by the college may be appealed to the dean of the Graduate School within 30 days of the college's decision. When students are terminated by the MPPPM program, but not simultaneously by the Graduate School, they may apply for admission to another graduate program if they wish to do so. More information can be found on the UGA Academic Honesty website.

Adherence to UGA policies

Students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior while enrolled in the graduate program and to act in a manner that demonstrates integrity and respect for others and the campus environment.

- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Work Place Violence Policy

Academic Honesty



Every student agrees to abide by UGA's Academic Honesty Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the policy. The policy is located on the Office of Instruction website. Violation of academic honesty may result in the following: Receipt of a failing/unsatisfactory assignment or course grade, placement of a dishonesty notation on transcript, suspension, dismissal, or expulsion. *Note that not being familiar with the policy does not serve as an excuse for transgressions.*

Policy on Use of Generative AI in the Classroom and Class Assignments

UGA's **Academic Honesty Policy** states that use of technology, including generative AI tools, is unacceptable unless otherwise authorized by the instructor of record. Instructors are encouraged to explicitly state their policy on the use of generative AI in general or for specific assignments.

Policy on Use of Generative AI in Thesis, Dissertations and Internship reports

Effective January 19, 2024. "Per the Graduate Bulletin, the master's thesis demonstrates independent judgment in developing a problem from primary sources, and a dissertation represents originality in research, independent thinking, scholarly ability, and technical mastery

of a field of study. It is the responsibility of the advisory committee to review and evaluate the thesis or dissertation as a representation of a student's individual effort. As such, the use of generative AI in theses and dissertations is considered unauthorized assistance per the Academic Code of Honesty and is prohibited unless specifically authorized by members of the advisory committee for use within the approved scope. If approved by the advisory committee, the extent of generative AI usage should be disclosed in a statement within the thesis or dissertation."

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

- If you need help managing stress, anxiety, relationships, and others, please visit BeWellUGA for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Disabilities Statement

Students with a documented disability by the UGA Accessibility and Testing department should contact the MPPPM Coordinator, Dr. Nicholas Basinger at Nicholas.Basinger@uga.edu or 706-542-9810. *Please note that the MPPPM program is unable to accommodate any disability without documentation from the Accessibility and Testing department.*

CAES Resources

Experiment Stations, Research and Education Centers

The CAES maintains experimental farms - available for research - at all the major ecological zones of Georgia.

UGA Food Bank

Information on UGA's Food Bank can be found here.

Financial Assistance

Resources to assistant students facing hardships can be found here.

Additional Resources

Writing Support at the UGA Libraries

"Support to UGA students, staff, and faculty at any stage of the writing process." Available through the English Department and through the UGA Libraries.

Accessibility and Testing

Accessibility and Testing can assist with notetaking, testing and other accommodations.

Professional photos (free)

For social media, portfolios, etc: UGA Career Center

Work-Life Resources

- Mental Health Initiative
- Student Care and Outreach – helps coordinate care and assistance for all students who experience hardship or other unseen circumstances
- The Graduate Student Emergency Fund – helps graduate students who experience an unexpected financial hardship
- UGA Pride Center – helps foster an inclusive, informed community for LGBTQIA+ individuals through collaboration, education and advocacy
- International Student Life – Assisting international students cope with life in the USA and helping internalize the campus

MPPPM Contacts

Graduate Coordinator

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MPPPM Forms and Resources

MPPPM Degree checklist

A helpful checklist can be found here**.**

MPPPM Courses

The MPPPM course requirements and rotation can be found here.

Program of Study (POS) –

The final course selection is made by the student with the advice and consent of their faculty advisor. The student will work with their faculty advisor on the initial program of study by the end of their first semester.

This Program of Study must be approved by the MPPPM Graduate Coordinator and is due to the Graduate School by the end of the second semester. The Graduate Coordinator is under no obligation to approve a program of study 'after the fact' and may require additional coursework if they are not consulted before the student has completed their coursework.

All Graduate School requirements for a master's degree must be fulfilled within a six-year time frame, beginning with the first registration for graduate courses listed on the program of study and ending with the final semester of the sixth year.

Instructions for submitting the program of study (Form G138) to the Graduate School can be found here. Make sure to select **Non-Doctoral Professional Degree**.

Internship Reports and Exit Exams

Deadlines for internship reports can be found here.

Instructions for scheduling exit exams can be found here.

Exit Interview

After completing exit exams and prior to graduating, students must complete an online exit interview. The link to the exit interview can be found here.

Application for Graduation

Students must apply to graduate (in Athena) by the Graduate School Application deadline each semester.

Students must enroll for a minimum of three credit hours during the semester in which degree requirements are completed.

Change in graduation date: If a student cannot complete degree requirements in the semester for which a graduation application was submitted, the student should notify the Graduate School (gradinfo@uga.edu) to cancel the application. Once the application has been cancelled, the student should reapply the following semester.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Most questions about the MPPPM program can be found here.

Appendix

Example Abstracts of Recent Internships

1) This paper details work done in the UGA County ANR Extension Internship Program and research on UAVs and aerial imagery on crops. For the extension project, I shadowed a county extension agent during his every day job. Consequently I was exposed to multiple farming issues and problems that farmers combat. For the research project, I was trying to determine if imagery from a UAV helicopter can be a useful tool for pest management under the direction of Glen Rains. Other research was done on GPS and how much the points move on a day to day basis at different heights. Flights were conducted at the same time of day and once at a later time in the day to see the difference. Measurements were taken from video taken during flight on a computer program to determine the differential distance of the GPS. The average GPS has a 3 meter differential/ error. Data concluded that the GPS on the copter had a differential/ error of only 1.33 meters. An MPPPM internship is a great learning opportunity for any student looking to work in the agricultural industry.

2) The cowpea curculio, *Chalcodermus aeneus* (Boheman) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), is the key pest of southern pea or cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata* (L.), in Georgia and elsewhere in the southeastern USA. There has never been an effective trapping method reported for this pest. We developed a modified Tedder's trap that was tested against standard boll weevil traps and yellow sticky traps. The new trap detected *C. aeneus* adults earlier and in greater numbers than the other trapping methods. The new trap was used to monitor weekly movement of *C. aeneus* adults for two annual cycles in 2012 and 2013 at multiple locations. The detection of adults was consistent with early spring movement from overwintering sites followed by a summer generation and a fall generation. No adults were collected in traps from the end of December to the end of March. The temporal distribution of *C. aeneus* in traps over the season suggests three distinct periods of adult activity from mid-April to mid-June, late-July to early-October and then mid-November to mid-December. The utility of monitoring *C. aeneus* for regional management strategies is discussed.

3) My internship project was conducted under the supervision of Dr. T. Brenneman. Specifically, the project was designed to evaluate several fungicides applied at two different timings for efficacy on *Sclerotinia* stem rot. My internship was an invaluable experience where I worked with chemicals and fungi that I learned about in my MPPPM classes. I was able to exercise my knowledge of pesticide safety and sprayer calibration when handling and applying those chemicals. It was a rewarding experience to use skills

in the field that I learned in the class room. The central goal of my research was to find the most efficient fungicide for controlling white mold in canola. Fungicide research plays a critical role in finding the best spay program to recommend to farmers. Little research has been conducted in Georgia on canola, and this study showed that there is more research to be done in order to find the most productive spray program. Dr. Brenneman allowed me to work hands-on with the canola throughout the trial. The crop was planted before I started the MPPPM program in the spring of 2014, but I conducted the fungicide applications and took all of the ratings of disease as it progressed. I took 3 different ratings for white mold throughout the season and one rating of *Alternaria* black spot. The *Alternaria* black spot was unexpected and appeared on the seed pods in late April. I entered data into SAS and created the table of results. I also contributed with Dr. Brenneman and Dr. Grey on the disease report attached which will explain my project in more detail.

4) This paper details work completed on the UGA Internship program. Cultivars with resistance and tolerance to two different pathogens, Tobacco Black Shank (*Phytopthora nicotianae*) and Root-knot nematodes were evaluated. Research was performed on the UGA Bowen Farm and the UGA Black Shank Nursery both in Tifton, GA. Different Varieties of tobacco were selected based on pedigrees and know resistance. They were transplanted at the farms in *P. nicotianae and Meloidogyne arenaria* disease nurseries and data was collected the entire growing season. Varieties with the PHP gene have resistance to Race 0 of tobacco blacks shank and the Florida 301 which gene imparts tolerance to Race1 were chosen for the black shank test. For the Nematode trail varieties that showed tolerance or resistance to the root knot nematode in past years were chosen to be evaluated. The nematode variety trial had a few varieties that stood out. The best variety in the trial was the Cross Creek variety CC35 which had excellent yield in the nematode area at the Bowen Farm. Significantly ($P<0.05$) outperformed all other entries in the test. The results from the Black Shank Trial demonstrated that Speights Variety SP225 had very promising resistance to both races of tobacco black shank. It had significantly less loss due to disease then all other varieties in the test. The Black Shank Nursery has over 50 years of continuous black shank, and represents the highest level of Black Shank severity that could be expect at the farm level.