

UNL Department of Agronomy & Horticulture

MS Degree

Similarities & Differences between Option I and Option II Degree Tracks*

<https://catalog.unl.edu/graduate-professional/graduate/degrees/masters/#text>

Similarities

- Both sets of students want to advance their knowledge and careers.
- Time limit for degree is 10 years.
- Specializations are optional.
- Must earn min. B in graduate/undergraduate courses and min. C in graduate-only courses.
- Both options allow students maximum flexibility in selecting coursework that meets their career goals and interests. They may both be completed online; however, the Option I thesis has more requirements for finishing online.

Differences

Option I

- UNL Requires a thesis for 6-10 hrs.;
- Requires 30 credit hours;
- Minor available but not required (9 cr);
- 8 hrs. of graduate-only courses required;
- Population is often On-Campus Students who attend school full time and work part time (although online students also pursue this track);
- Admissions Requirements:
<https://agrohortonline.unl.edu/ms-agronomy-option-i-thesis#requirements>

Career Path

- Prepares for careers in research, academic or scholarly work. May pursue a Ph.D.
- Lead research projects in Agricultural Companies and research universities.

Option II

- Faculty require a project for 1-6 hrs.;
- Requires 36 credit hours;
- Minor is required (9 credits);
- 12 hrs. required in graduate-only courses;
- Population is often Online Students who work full time and attend school part time (although on-campus students also pursue this track);
- Admissions Requirements:
<https://agrohortonline.unl.edu/option2-nonthesis#requirements>

Career Path

- Considered a professional degree and students don't plan to pursue a Ph.D.
- Lead production projects, training, or sales teams in the Agricultural sector.

* Department of Agronomy & Horticulture traditionally does not offer the Option III Track