



# Master's Handbook for Construction Management

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**FLORIDA**

M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management



# Table of Contents

<b>Foreword .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Resources .....	2
Contacts .....	2
Completion of a Master's Degree .....	2
<b>Application for Application into the MCM and MSCM .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Common Application Procedures .....	3
MSCM-specific Application Procedures .....	3
English Proficiency Exams .....	3
<b>Master's Programs at the Rinker School.....</b>	<b>4-5</b>
Master of Construction Management.....	4
Master of Science in Construction Management .....	4
Sustainable Construction Major.....	4
Thesis Considerations .....	4
Final Exam .....	4
<b>Rinker School Course Information .....</b>	<b>6-7</b>
Prerequisites/Leveling Courses.....	6
Outside Elective Courses .....	6
Rinker School Registration.....	6
Course Descriptions .....	6
<b>Funding Opportunities .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>General Information.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Combination Degrees .....	9
Unsatisfactory Progress .....	9
<b>MSCM Information.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Thesis definition .....	9
Thesis timeline.....	9
Thesis formatting.....	9
Thesis editing.....	9
Research Areas .....	9
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>10-11</b>



## **A Message from the Director of Graduate Programs and Research**

Welcome to Rinker School!

Joining the Rinker School as a Master's Degree student may be the most significant decision you made towards your future career. Rinker School has an outsize impact in its field and is rated the top construction management program in the United States and across the world.

We are proud to share that Rinker School alumni lead the construction industry globally. Our Rinker graduate students are highly sought after and we have had an unbeatable 100% placement record year on year. If you have joined our graduate program to further refine and update your technical knowledge in the field of construction management or change careers to align with your interests or gain insights into construction industry, Rinker School has it all covered.

Take a moment to read this Master's Degree handbook which has been drafted to support your success and timely graduation. Therefore, use this handbook as a quick-reference guide. Feel free to contact Mr. Joseph Carroll, Rinker School Graduate Admissions Officer or me if you have questions.

With clear goals, you are about to see a forward momentum in your career trajectory. Graduate and become a proud Rinker alumni, come back and share your insights with students, and make an impact!

Go Gators!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Srinivasan'.

Dr. Ravi Srinivasan  
Director of Graduate Programs and Research  
M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management  
College of Design, Construction and Planning  
University of Florida



## Introduction

All new Master of Construction Management (MCM) and Master of Science in Construction Management (MSCM) students are required to read this handbook and its supporting documentation. The student is responsible for meeting all master's degree program requirements and satisfying all deadlines, which are published in the Graduate School's academic calendar.

This document sets out the procedures and policies to be followed by both prospective and admitted students seeking the MCM and MSCM, within the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Construction Management (Rinker School) in the College of Design, Construction, and Planning (College of DCP). This handbook is a supplement to the *Graduate Catalog* of the University of Florida's Graduate School and should be read in conjunction with that document. These documents and other general information on the doctoral program are available as follows:

### Resources:

- The **Graduate Catalog** is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/>.
- The **Graduate School website** is available at <http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/>.
- The **Rinker School website** available at <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/>.

### Contacts:

- The Rinker School's **Director of Graduate Programs and Research** is Dr. Ravi Srinivasan. His email address is [sravi@ufl.edu](mailto:sravi@ufl.edu).
- The Rinker School's **Graduate Admissions Officer** is Mr. Joseph J. Carroll. His email address is [josephcarroll@ufl.edu](mailto:josephcarroll@ufl.edu).

### Completion of a master's degree involves two main components:

1. Complete the coursework.
  - The MCM requires at least 36 credit hours, plus any necessary levelling courses. Only six credits of that work may be from outside the Rinker School's graduate program.
  - The MSCM requires at least 30 credit hours, plus any necessary levelling courses. Only six credits of that work may be from outside the Rinker School's graduate program. Three of the 30 credits must be Thesis Research, BCN 6971.
2. Complete a final exam.
  - For non-thesis (MCM) students their final consists of completing a capstone course, Construction Project Delivery, BCN 5789C.
  - For thesis (MSCM) students their final consists of successfully defending their thesis and successfully completing final clearance of their thesis submission to the Graduate School.
  - Final exams must be completed in a student's final semester, with the exception that BCN 5789C may be completed in a Spring Semester, if a student graduates in a Summer Semester.

The two components appear straightforward, but they often involve complex systems which interplay with one another. Hence, this handbook was written to demystify the master's degree process, while explaining rules and regulations which are unique to the MCM and MSCM degrees.

## Application for Admission into the MCM and MSCM

Applicants to the Rinker School master's degrees must apply to either the MCM or MSCM.

### Common Application Procedures:

1. Apply to Master of Construction Management (non-thesis) or Master of Science in Construction Management (thesis) using the online application found at <https://admissions.ufl.edu>.
  - a. Do not select a concentration. There are no active concentrations inside of the MCM/MSCM.
  - b. Make sure to comply with the deadlines, which are available at <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/academics/masters/construction-management/>.
  - c. The following materials are required:
    - i. Transcripts from all colleges and universities attended,
    - ii. A current résumé or *curriculum vitae*,
    - iii. Three letters of recommendation (academics preferred; professionals accepted),
    - iv. A statement of purpose:
      1. Length should be one to two pages,
      2. Font should be twelve-point, Arial, Times New Roman, or Calibri,
      3. Should clearly state why the student desires to study at the Rinker School, and
      4. Should clearly state the objective of earning the master's degree.
2. Note that an B grade average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better, as determined by the last two years of an applicant's academic record is expected.
3. Note that admissions are competitive. Merely meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.
4. Note the application fee is \$30 (plus a convenience fee when paying by credit card).
  - a. The fee is not waivable.
  - b. The fee is non-refundable.
  - c. Applicants should ensure they meet admissions criteria before applying.
5. Note that master's degree applicants should not expect to receive an offer of funding letter.

### MSCM-specific Application Procedures:

1. The GRE is mandatory for application to the MSCM.
  - a. A combined score of 300 or better is required.
  - b. The Verbal Section score must be 140 or higher.
  - c. A 160 or better on the Quantitative Section is preferred.
2. Applicants to the MSCM may select the Sustainable Construction major when applying.
3. An MSCM statement of purpose should clearly state research interests of the student and the Rinker School faculty they desire to mentor them.

### English Proficiency Exams

Applicants who are not citizens of a country where English is one of the official languages will need to submit English proficiency exam scores, unless they graduated with a degree from a university in a country where the official language is English.

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores are both acceptable exams.
- Reference <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/academics/masters/construction-management/> for current TOEFL and IELTS requirements.
- Students may substitute the University of Florida English Language Institute (ELI) exit exam in place of acceptable TOEFL or IELTS scores. To learn more about the ELI program, visit <https://eli.ufl.edu/>.

## **Master's Programs at the Rinker School**

The Rinker School of Construction Management offers two residential master's degrees on the University of Florida's main campus in Gainesville, Florida. One of those degrees is the Master of Construction Management (MCM) and the other is the Master of Sciences in Construction Management (MSCM). The MSCM also has the option of a major in Sustainable Construction. There are distance education master's degree options too, but this handbook covers the residential programs.

### **Master of Construction Management**

The MCM is a coursework degree for those looking to enter or advance their career in the construction industry. It requires twelve courses, plus any needed leveling courses, to complete the degree, which is three more than the MSCM. This produces a graduate who is very well rounded in their knowledge of construction management theories. Also, despite the additional coursework, the MCM is simpler to complete than the MSCM. In many ways the MCM is a terminal degree because the lack of research does not prepare students to further their education with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). Likewise, the lack of thesis does not prepare students well for law school (Juris Doctorate), due to the lower volume of writing. Historically, the MCM has been slightly more popular than the MSCM, with 60 percent of students choosing for forgo writing a thesis.

### **Master of Science in Construction Management**

The MSCM is a master's degree which requires students to do original experimentation, write a thesis, and defend their thesis before a committee of professors. The MSCM requires nine courses plus three credits of Thesis Research, in addition to any needed leveling courses, to complete the degree. The research involved with the degree creates a graduate who is an expert in the area of their thesis topic. That research is more complicated than merely completing coursework, and a sound thesis usually takes nine months of work to complete. Students must have a Rinker School professor guide them through their research, producing an approved research proposal prior to engaging in research. Fortunately, the Rinker School has a wide array of faculty members with many areas of specialization, which allows students to research virtually any topic related to construction. MSCM degrees also prepare students to advance to even higher degrees, such a Juris Doctorate and PhD programs.

### **Sustainable Construction Major**

Inside of the MSCM is the optional Sustainable Construction Major, which allows students to proudly display their specialized major on their University of Florida diploma. The Sustainable Construction Major requires students to write a sustainability themed thesis, complete three green building electives, and complete Value Engineering.

### **Thesis Considerations**

Dr. R. Edward Minchin, Jr., the former Director of Master's Programs at the Rinker School, wrote, "No student has ever started too early to work on their thesis." Immediately afterward Dr. Minchin repeated, "No student has ever started too early to work on their thesis." His point was that planning a thesis as early as possible can significantly reduce the stress which comes from attempting to complete a thesis in a short period of time. If possible, MSCM students should begin discussing their thesis ideas with Rinker School professors prior to applying to the degree. At minimum, MSCM students must begin that discussion prior to their second semester in the program. Therefore, since a thesis answers a question using scientific methods, a student wishing to obtain an MSCM should know the types of questions they would like to answer. Otherwise, they should complete the MCM.

### **Final Exams**

The final exam for an MCM student is the Rinker School's capstone course, Construction Project Delivery (BCN 5789C). The final exam for an MSCM student is their thesis defense. Regardless, Construction Project Delivery is also mandatory for MSCM students, and they should also take it at the end of their degree.

**Figure 1. MCM, MSCM, and MSCM/SC Coursework**

<b>MCM</b>	<b>MSCM</b>	<b>MSCM, Sustainable Major</b>
<b>Prerequisite coursework</b>	<b>Prerequisite coursework</b>	<b>Prerequisite coursework</b>
ACG 2021 - Introduction to Financial Accounting	ACG 2021 - Introduction to Financial Accounting	ACG 2021 - Introduction to Financial Accounting
BCN 2405C - Construction Mechanics	BCN 2405C - Construction Mechanics	BCN 2405C - Construction Mechanics
BCN 3223C - Soils and Concrete	BCN 3223C - Soils and Concrete	BCN 3223C - Soils and Concrete
BCN 3224C - Construction Techniques	BCN 3224C - Construction Techniques	BCN 3224C - Construction Techniques
BCN 3255C - Graphic Communication in Construction	BCN 3255C - Graphic Communication in Construction	BCN 3255C - Graphic Communication in Construction
BCN 3281C - Construction Methods Laboratory	BCN 3281C - Construction Methods Laboratory	BCN 3281C - Construction Methods Laboratory
BCN 3431C - Structures	BCN 3431C - Structures	BCN 3431C - Structures
BCN 4423C - Temporary Structures	BCN 4423C - Temporary Structures	BCN 4423C - Temporary Structures
BCN 4510C - Mechanical Systems	BCN 4510C - Mechanical Systems	BCN 4510C - Mechanical Systems
BCN 5618C - Comprehensive Estimating	BCN 5618C - Comprehensive Estimating	BCN 5618C - Comprehensive Estimating
BCN 5705C - Project Management for Construction	BCN 5705C - Project Management for Construction	BCN 5705C - Project Management for Construction
BCN 5789C - Construction Project Delivery	BCN 5789C - Construction Project Delivery	BCN 5789C - Construction Project Delivery
<b>Core Courses</b>	<b>Core Courses</b>	<b>Core Courses</b>
BCN 5722 - Advanced Planning and Control	BCN 5722 - Advanced Planning and Control	BCN 5722 - Advanced Planning and Control
BCN 5737 - Adv. Issues in Constr. Safety & Health	BCN 5737 - Adv. Issues in Constr. Safety & Health	BCN 5737 - Adv. Issues in Constr. Safety & Health
BCN 6036 - Research Methods in Construction	BCN 6036 - Research Methods in Construction	BCN 6036 - Research Methods in Construction
BCN 6748 - Construction Law	BCN 6748 - Construction Law	BCN 6641 - Value Engineering
	BCN 6971 - Thesis Research	BCN 6748 - Construction Law
		BCN 6971 - Thesis Research
<b>No required electives</b>	<b>No required electives</b>	<b>Required electives (select 3 from below)</b>
		BCN 6558C - Building Integrated Renewable Energy
		BCN 6580 - High Performance Green Bldg. Systems
		BCN 6583 - Sustainable Housing
		BCN 6584C - Building Energy Modeling
		BCN 6585 - Prin. of Sustainable Dev. & Constr.
		BCN 6586 - Construction Ecology & Metabolism
<b>Electives (select 8 from below)</b>	<b>Electives (select 5 from below)</b>	<b>Electives (select 1 from below)</b>
BCN 5470 - Construction Methods Improvement	BCN 5470 - Construction Methods Improvement	BCN 5470 - Construction Methods Improvement
BCN 5625 - Construction Cost Analysis	BCN 5625 - Construction Cost Analysis	BCN 5625 - Construction Cost Analysis
BCN 5715 - Advanced Construction Labor Problems	BCN 5715 - Advanced Construction Labor Problems	BCN 5715 - Advanced Construction Labor Problems
BCN 5729 - Design-Build Delivery Methods	BCN 5729 - Design-Build Delivery Methods	BCN 5729 - Design-Build Delivery Methods
BCN 5776 - International Constr. Business Mgmt.	BCN 5776 - International Constr. Business Mgmt.	BCN 5776 - International Constr. Business Mgmt.
BCN 5874 - Equipment & Methods for Heavy Constr.	BCN 5874 - Equipment & Methods for Heavy Constr.	BCN 5874 - Equipment & Methods for Heavy Constr.
BCN 5885 - Methods/Mgmt. – Heavy Hwy. Constr.	BCN 5885 - Methods/Mgmt. – Heavy Hwy. Constr.	BCN 5885 - Methods/Mgmt. – Heavy Hwy. Constr.
BCN 5905 - Special Studies in Construction	BCN 5905 - Special Studies in Construction	BCN 5905 - Special Studies in Construction
BCN 5949 - Construction Management Internship	BCN 5949 - Construction Management Internship	BCN 5949 - Construction Management Internship
BCN 6558C - Building Integrated Renewable Energy	BCN 6558C - Building Integrated Renewable Energy	BCN 6755 - Construction Financial Management
BCN 6580 - High Performance Green Bldg. Systems	BCN 6580 - High Performance Green Bldg. Systems	BCN 6785 - Construction Information Systems
BCN 6583 - Sustainable Housing	BCN 6583 - Sustainable Housing	BCN 6905 - Directed Independent Study in Constr.
BCN 6584C - Building Energy Modeling	BCN 6584C - Building Energy Modeling	BCN 6933 - Human Factors/Building Research
BCN 6585 - Prin. of Sustainable Dev. & Constr.	BCN 6585 - Prin. of Sustainable Dev. & Constr.	
BCN 6586 - Construction Ecology & Metabolism	BCN 6586 - Construction Ecology & Metabolism	
BCN 6641 - Value Engineering	BCN 6641 - Value Engineering	
BCN 6755 - Construction Financial Management	BCN 6755 - Construction Financial Management	
BCN 6785 - Construction Information Systems	BCN 6785 - Construction Information Systems	
BCN 6905 - Directed Independent Study in Constr.	BCN 6905 - Directed Independent Study in Constr.	
BCN 6933 - Human Factors/Building Research	BCN 6933 - Human Factors/Building Research	
<b>Total hours (minus prerequisites) required = 36</b>	<b>Total hours (minus prerequisites) required = 30</b>	<b>Total hours (minus prerequisites) required = 30</b>



## Rinker School Course Information

### Prerequisites/Leveling Courses

The Rinker School has prerequisite courses which assist students to reach the same basic level of knowledge regarding construction management as Rinker School undergraduate students. The Rinker School prefers to call these courses leveling courses, since they are not required to be completed prior to commencing the master's degree programs and they are designed to "catch up" students from divergent academic backgrounds.

- **ACG 2021, Introduction to Financial Accounting**
  - This course covers the basics of accounting.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed an equivalent course with a C or better. Finance courses are not considered equivalent.
  - Students may also waive this leveling by completing the Wharton School of Business' Introduction to Financial Accounting certificate found on Coursera.org.
- **BCN 2405C, Construction Mechanics**
  - This course covers statics and strength of materials.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
- **BCN 3223C, Soils and Concrete**
  - This course covers reinforced soils and concrete fundamentals.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
- **BCN 3224C, Construction Techniques**
  - This course covers how construction materials go together to form structures.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better at an American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accredited institute.
  - There is a waiver exam for this course. Passing the exam exempts a student from the course.
- **BCN 3255C, Graphic Communication in Construction**
  - This course covers 3D construction models using REVIT software.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
  - It may also be waived by passing Building Energy Modeling with a B or better.
- **BCN 3281C, Construction Methods Laboratory**
  - This course covers land surveying and measurement.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
- **BCN 3431C, Structures**
  - This course covers steel structures.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
- **BCN 4423C, Temporary Structures**
  - This covers formworks, scaffolding, shoring and similar temporary structures made from wood.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better at an American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accredited institute.
  - There is a waiver exam for this course. Passing the exam exempts a student from the course.
- **BCN 4510C, Mechanical Systems**
  - This course covers HVAC systems, electricity, and plumbing.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a C or better.
  - It may also be waived by passing Building Energy Modeling with a B or better.

- **BCN 5618C, Comprehensive Estimating**
  - This course covers the way construction cost estimating is done in the United States.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a B or better at an American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accredited institute.
- **BCN 5705C, Project Management for Construction**
  - This course covers how to manage a construction project.
  - It may be waived via a student's transcript, if they passed equivalent courses with a B or better at an American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accredited institute.
- **BCN 5789C, Construction Project Delivery**
  - This course covers taking a construction project from the feasibility stage all the way to delivery to the customer.
  - Since this course is used as a capstone project, it is not waived.

**Any levelling courses not waived by the end of a student's first semester of enrollment in the MCM or MSCM must be completed at the University of Florida.**

### **Outside Elective Courses**

Courses from outside the Rinker School which a student desires to use towards a master's degree must be approved by the Director Graduate Studies and Research before the student registers for the course. Courses offered by programs in the traditional related subject areas such as Architecture, Engineering and Business are nearly always approved. A maximum of six credits of outside electives may be used to award a master's degree. Entrepreneurship for Engineers (EGN 6640) and Engineering Innovation (EGN 6642) have been pre-approved for use with the MCM and MSCM.

### **Rinker School Registration**

- **First Term Registration.** First term registration for newly admitted students is done the same day as the Rinker School's graduate student orientation. Registration is completed by the Graduate Admissions Officer.
- **Subsequent Term Registration.** Student will meet with the Graduate Admissions Officer prior to subsequent registration. The Graduate Admissions Officer will email students approximately one semester prior to the upcoming semester with registration appointment times. Students will need to consult with the Graduate Admissions Officer and update their plans of study in order to register for classes.
- **Non-Rinker School Student Registration.** Occasionally there is room for students outside of the Rinker School to take Rinker School graduate classes. Outside registration is only done after the majority of Construction Management students have been registered. Contact the Graduate Admissions Officer for additional information and the registration form.
- **Drop/Add.** It is imperative that all course schedule adjustments are completed before the end of the Drop/Add period for any given semester. Reference the academic calendar found in the *Graduate Catalog* for the deadlines.

### **Course Descriptions**

Reference the *Graduate Catalog* for course descriptions. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/>

## Funding Opportunities

Please be advised that funding opportunities are limited for Construction Management master's students. Every student is encouraged to secure funding for the entire master's degree on their own.

- **Graduate Teaching Assistantships.** Each year, financial support is offered to eligible graduate students within the Rinker School to teach, or assist faculty in teaching, certain undergraduate courses. These are usually offered to students after they have joined the Rinker School. ○ Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTA) offer tuition assistance and a stipend for one or more semesters. GTA performance is evaluated at the completion of each semester. Note that most GTA positions go to PhD students and MCM students are not eligible for GTA.
- **Research Assistantships.** Faculty members of the Rinker School are actively involved in research which is often supported financially by granting agencies. This support often includes funding for Graduate Research Assistants (GRA), providing tuition assistance and a stipend for one or more years. Note that most GRA positions go to PhD students and MCM students are not eligible for GRA.
- **Financial Aid.** Domestic students may qualify for Federal Financial Aid. Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to see if they qualify. To learn more, visit the Office of Student Financial Affairs website, <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/>.
- **Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship.** The Latin American and Caribbean Scholarship (LAC) is available to full-time students who are citizens of a Latin American or Caribbean country (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The LAC grants Florida resident tuition to it recipients plus \$500 per year for books. There is no application for the LAC; the Rinker School of Construction Management automatically considers applicants from eligible countries during the admissions process. To learn more about the LAC, reference the UF International Center website, <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/latin-american-caribbean-lac-scholarship>.
- **Rinker School Scholarships.** The Rinker School has approximately 30 scholarship awards available each year, which typically award between \$500 to \$2,000. Applications for the scholarships can be found on the Students section of the Rinker School website. Note that students must have a UF GPA to be eligible for Rinker School scholarships, and additional eligibility requirements exist for many of the scholarships.
- **G.W. Robinson Master's Assistantship.** The G.W. Robinson Master's Assistantship (GW Robinson) may be awarded for up to two years for new MSCM students and for proportionally shorter periods of time for existing MSCM students. The GW Robinson covers eighteen credit hours of tuition per year and includes a bi-weekly stipend and health insurance. MCM students are not eligible for the GW Robinson.

## General Information

### Combination Master's Degrees

A combination degree program includes simultaneous study on an individualized basis that leads to two master's degrees in two different graduate programs. Such a program is initiated by the student but requires prior approval from each academic unit and the Graduate School. If the student is approved to pursue two master's degrees, up to nine credits of course work from one degree program may be applied toward the second master's degree, thereby allowing the two degrees to be completed in less time and more economically. Rinker School students have completed combination master's degrees with Engineering and Architecture in the past.

### Unsatisfactory Progress

Any graduate student may be denied further registration if progress toward completing the program becomes unsatisfactory to the academic unit, college, or Dean of the Graduate School. Unsatisfactory scholarship is defined as failure to maintain a B average (3.00) in all work attempted. Graduate students need an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 and a 3.00 GPA in their major (and in the minor, if a minor is declared) at graduation. Students with less than a 3.00 GPA may not hold an assistantship.

## MSCM information

**Thesis definition.** A thesis is a research paper written using original content. By writing a thesis a student demonstrates competency in the subject addressed. That knowledge comes from reviews of previously published articles, scientific observation, and analysis of collected data. A student's thesis committee chair will approve the student's proposed topic and provide guidance throughout the process. The committee chair must hold Graduate Research Status.

**Thesis timeline.** It is advised that students begin work on their theses at least nine months prior to enrolling for Thesis Research credit. Three credit hours of Thesis Research are needed in a student's final term to graduate. Students that do not successfully defend their theses must enroll again in Thesis Research and may have to defend again in a subsequent semester. Therefore, a research proposal signed by the student's entire committee must be submitted to the Graduate Admissions Officer prior to registering for Thesis Research credits. This is because the thesis must be completed and defended early in the term of intended graduation. Rinker School thesis deadlines, which are stricter than those of the Graduate School, are emailed to faculty and students prior to each semester.

**Thesis formatting.** Prior to writing their thesis, students should review the format requirements of the Graduate School Editorial Office. To download the Graduate School's template, and learn more about their specific requirements, reference their Thesis and Dissertation page, <http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/about-us/offices/editorial/thesis-and-dissertation/>.

**Thesis editing.** The Application Support Center (ASC) is another resource which can be helpful to MSCM students, especially in regard to thesis formatting. The ASC offers students assistance with troubleshooting their documents free of charge. The ASC also provides more extensive formatting and other services for a cost. It is highly recommended that all MSCM students use their services, or other competent editing services, to ensure that a well written and properly formatted document is submitted to the Graduate School Editorial Office. The ASC's website address is <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/application-support-center/>.

### Research Areas

For a list of faculty research interests, reference the Research Faculty section of the Rinker School website, <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/research-faculty/>



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Are graduate students eligible for lockers?**

Lockers are available at the beginning of Fall and Spring Semesters. Students seeking a locker for a semester must register on the Rinker School website, <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/lockers/>. Students provide their own lock.

### **Is any assistance with employment offered by the Rinker School?**

The Rinker School has a full-time Career Placement Coordinator who assists students with finding internships and job interviews. The Rinker School also hosts career fairs in the Spring and Fall Semesters.

### **Will graduate students have their own space?**

The Rinker School keeps growing, so space is always at a premium. Graduate teaching assistants may be provided with a desk. Students with research assistantships will be provided a desk, if space is available. Other students should not expect to be assigned desk space.

### **Is there credit for work experience?**

The Rinker School strives to assemble a student body that is diverse in all respects, but experience in the construction industry, especially in a management capacity, is regarded as the most valuable of all assets that an applicant can possess, other than academic accomplishments. That said, the Rinker School's admission standards are not abandoned to admit an applicant that has construction experience, no matter how noteworthy. In a case where the academic record of an applicant is sufficiently close to posted admission standards, substantial industry experience may help the applicant gain admission to the master's programs.

Once admitted, a student may use an OSHA 30 construction card to waive Advanced Issues in Construction Safety. The waiver of that course does not reduce the number of hours that a student must pass to graduate.

### **Is the GRE required if one already has an advanced degree, an FE or PE, or has GMAT scores?**

In order to treat all applicants equally, every applicant to the MSCM program must have acceptable GRE scores. No other exam substitutes for the GRE. The MCM does not require the GRE.

### **Where can one find information on graduation ceremonies?**

The University of Florida refers to the ceremonies honoring graduating students as Commencement, and information regarding it can be found on the Commencement website, <https://commencement.ufl.edu/>.

### **Does the Rinker School accept transfer credits?**

Up to six credits of relevant graduate-level coursework from another regionally accredited institution may be transferred, at the discretion of the Director of Graduate Studies and Research, towards the MSCM or MCM, if those credits were not used to satisfy requirements for a previously awarded degree and a grade of B or higher was earned in the course(s).

### **Can MCM or MSCM credit be used towards a CM PhD?**

Up to 30 credits may be transferred to a doctoral degree in Design, Construction and Planning with a concentration in Construction Management. See the Rinker School's PhD handbook for more information.

### **Is on-campus housing available?**

UF does have graduate student housing. Reference the UF Housing and Residence Education website, <https://www.housing.ufl.edu/>, for information.

**What are Special Studies and DIS courses?**

Special Studies (BCN 5905) and Directed Independent Study (BCN 6905) are variable credit, research-based courses which can be on almost any topic related to Construction Management. Students and Rinker School professors agree on the topic to be covered and the deliverables to be turned in by the end of the semester. A special form is required to register for BCN 5905/6905, which may be obtained from the Admissions Officer. Students typically meet with their guiding professor at least once per week to make sure they are making satisfactory progress throughout the semester. Special Studies and DIS courses can be great ways for graduate students to study a topic which is not covered by the normal course offerings. Occasionally there is enough demand for a specialized subject that a professor will hold regular classroom sessions on it and make the section available for students to register through the normal registration process. For example, Building Energy Modelling was offered as a Special Studies course multiple times, before demand for the subject lead it to be created as a regular course offering.

**How long does it take to earn an MCM/MSCM?**

The answer depends on how many leveling courses a student needs to take. Students in the Combination BSCM/MSCM can finish in as few as two semesters, while those coming from unrelated academic backgrounds routinely take three years to finish. Most students from Architecture and Civil Engineering backgrounds take two years to complete a master's degree at the Rinker School.

**What does one do with a Construction Management degree?**

The majority of Rinker School graduates enter the construction industry as project engineers, assistant project managers, junior estimators, schedulers, assistant superintendents, safety managers, and even purchasing agents. Those students who take Construction Information Systems often work in a firm's VDC department. However, there are other options as well. Students who graduate from the MSCM sometimes pursue higher education in the form of PhD or juris doctorate studies. Other students go to work for real estate development firms. A small but significant number of graduates have the entrepreneurial spirit to open their own businesses related to construction.

**Where do students come from?**

Rinker School students come from across the world, including all over North American, Asia, Africa, South and Central America, Australia, and Europe. Their academic backgrounds have ranged from Anthropology to Urban and Regional Planning. Approximately a third of the program's graduate students are women.

**Which classes are available online?**

The MCM/MSCM are residential, face-to-face programs. The Rinker School does offer Temporary Structures and two alternating graduate electives online each summer, utilizing the twelve-week summer term (Summer-C). This allows students the opportunity to pursue summer internships while continuing to study. For distance education degree options, see the Academics section of the website, <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker>.

**How does one obtain a student ID card?**

Students should stop by Gator 1 Central, located on the ground floor of the Reitz Union, when they arrive on campus to begin their first semester to obtain their Gator-1 card. Photo identification is required.

**What Student organizations exist at the Rinker School?**

Reference the Students section of the Rinker School website, <https://dcp.ufl.edu/rinker/student-clubs>.



A photograph of the University of Florida campus at dusk or dawn. The sky is a clear, deep blue. In the background, several orange-roofed buildings are visible through a dense canopy of green trees. The foreground is dominated by the dark, silhouetted branches of large trees.

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