**NORTHESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

GRADUATE COLLEGE

Master of Science in Natural Science (7700)

Statement of Understanding

**I understand that:**

1. Official transcripts of all college work must be filed in the Office of Admissions and Records and the Graduate College.

2. Official results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) must be sent to the NSU Graduate College. Test results can be no older than five years.

3. The following are requirements to meet candidacy:

* + - * A grade point average of 3.0 based on a 4.0 system for the last 60 hours of course work attempted; at either undergraduate or graduate level;
      * Attain a score of 298 with a minimum score of 143 on the quantitative section Graduate Record Examination.
      * Complete a minimum of 12 semester hours or a maximum of 18 hours of the degree as described by the plan of study.
      * Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 in all graduate course work taken prior to candidacy.
      * File a plan of study (degree plan) and Statement of Understanding as approved by the advisor and the Dean of the Graduate College.
      * Graduate students must select either the thesis or capstone routes for degree completion. Thesis students must form a graduate advisory committee consisting of the major research advisor and two other individuals.
      * All plans of study (degree plan) are valid for only six (6) years. All graduate course work must be completed within six (6) years in order to be counted toward the degree excluding time spent in the Armed Forces.

***Students are advised to meet candidacy requirements within the first 16 hours of their program. These requirements must be meet within the first 24 semester hours. In any event, 16 semester hours toward the Master of Science Degree must be completed after being admitted to candidacy.***

4. Other Requirements:

* A graduate student may not take more than 9 hours each summer or 16 hours spring or fall each semester. Prior approval from the graduate Dean is required for any overload.
* A maximum of 9 semester hours of approved transfer credit may be transferred to NSU and applied toward the M.S. Natural Sciences degree. For transfer credit to be applicable to a degree program at NSU, a student must have maintained a “B” average in all graduate course work attempted at the transferring institution. No credit will be given for a transfer course in which the grade is lower than a “B”.
* A minimum of 26 semester hours must be earned at Northeastern State University, including the final 9 semester hours.
* I must maintain an average of “B” in all graduate course work attempted.. No grade less than a “C” may be used for graduation. A graduate student becomes ineligible for graduate study if more than 9 semester hours of "C" or lower are earned in graduate courses taken in the degree program, or if the student does not meet any additional specific degree retention requirements imposed by a department or program.
* Graduate students agree to abide by the regulations governing the graduate program as stated in the Graduate Catalog.
* Thesis candidates must satisfactorily complete a research thesis and give an oral defense of the research thesis 60 days before conferral of the degree.
* Students must apply for a final degree check the next to the last semester of the program.
* Applications for graduation are due February 1 for spring, March 1 for summer, or October 1 for fall processing of a conferred degree.

**Student’s Signature**:  **Date:**

**Program Chair’s Signature: Date:**