1. Graduate-level understanding of essential concepts and approaches in the area of bioinformatics with application to animal sciences. The essential bioinformatics concepts will enable the graduate to secure a mid-management position in industry or federal agencies or pursue Ph.D. studies and to advance throughout the professional ranks.

2. Capacity to execute supervised thesis research including a) understanding of the scientific method, research objectives, materials and methods, advanced data analysis, and appreciation of the findings; and b) leadership on the implementation of essential research activities.

3. Ability to effectively communicate essential bioinformatics and animal sciences knowledge and thesis research findings in oral and written formats.

4. Aptitude to advocate for interdisciplinary research and education efforts to advance food security, food safety, animals and human health and wellbeing or environmental stewardship.