

Wayne State University
College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts
Department of Communication

GUIDELINES FOR THE MASTER'S THESIS

The thesis is a scholarly paper written in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters degree under the Plan A option. As such, it should be well organized and carefully developed. The student planning to write a thesis must first consult with their adviser.

Registration for Master's Thesis Research and Direction credit (COM 8999) is contingent on the adviser's endorsement of the Request for Thesis Approval and the Preliminary Outline of the thesis.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL and PRELIMINARY OUTLINE

In addition to the Request for Master's Thesis Approval (see page 3), a Preliminary Outline must be submitted to the adviser before commencing work on a thesis.

The Preliminary Outline should include:

- 1) A specific (approximately 250 words) description of the proposed research,
- 2) An introduction (approximately 500 words) to the intended methodological and theoretical frameworks,
- 3) An initial literature review (a minimum of 10 resources) of integral works.

The Preliminary Outline must be appropriately formatted according to either APA or MLA guidelines.

COMMITTEE

The student must select one committee member, and may select two members, in consultation with the adviser. The student should arrange to meet with the other committee member(s) in person to discuss participation. The master's Thesis Committee consists of the adviser and at least one other full-time faculty member from the Department. With the adviser's approval, the student may also arrange for another faculty member to supervise the thesis; the M.A. adviser will usually be the second committee member in such a case.

REGISTRATION FOR THESIS DIRECTION

The student should not register for Thesis Direction until they have filed an M.A. Plan of Work and have been accepted into Candidate Status.

Following the acceptance by the adviser of the Request for Master's Thesis Approval and the Preliminary Outline, the student must also complete a Course Override form for COM 8999 Master's Thesis Direction, which is to be signed by the adviser and submitted to the graduate office.

Six credits of Master's Thesis Research and Direction (COM 8999) are required for the degree. These may be taken in one semester or spread over two or three semesters.

A student who has completed all the coursework on the Plan of Work including registration for Thesis Direction and received grades for all the courses except Thesis Direction is not required to register for maintenance credits, but steady progress on the thesis is expected, whether the student is enrolled in further coursework or not.

FORMAT

The student must closely consult with the adviser about the formatting and style guide to be used for the thesis. The two most common academic formatting and styles are the American Psychological Association (APA) and Modern Language Association (MLA).

The thesis must be carefully proofread after all corrections suggested by the adviser and committee have been made and before it is accepted. A manuscript that does not conform to acceptable standards will be returned to the student for correction. The student will then be allowed up to two additional weeks beyond the deadline to resubmit the thesis for final approval.

Arrangement of Manuscript

1. Title Page
2. Acknowledgement or Preface (Optional)
3. Table of Contents
4. List of Tables or Figures
5. Body of Text
6. Bibliography or References
7. Appendix (Optional)
8. Autobiographical Statement (only if required by the committee)

The format for the Title Page appears on page 4, below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

After completion of the thesis, a copy is to be submitted to the adviser and committee member(s) for evaluation. Keep in mind that the committee may require two to four weeks to read the manuscript. The student will meet with the Thesis Committee for an Oral Examination. Three options are available for evaluation: Pass, Conditional Pass, and Fail. Any changes to the thesis document as required by the committee must be made and submitted to the adviser in a timely manner.

The adviser and committee must sign the cover page of the final approved copy of the thesis. A signed copy of the thesis title page must be submitted to the Director of Graduate Studies ***no later than the last day of the final exam period for the semester.***

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

REQUEST FOR THESIS APPROVAL

Name: _____ Access ID: _____

Thesis adviser: _____

Title of proposed thesis: _____

Committee member: _____

Committee member (optional): _____

Abstract (no more than 250 words):

Thesis adviser signature: _____ Date: _____

Director of Graduate Studies signature: _____ Date: _____

TITLE PAGE FOR M.A. THESIS

(center each heading)

(Title of Thesis)

by

(name of person submitting manuscript)

A THESIS

Submitted to the
Department of Communication
College of Fine, Performing & Communication Arts
Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
(FULL NAME OF DEGREE IN CAPITALS WITH CONCENTRATION
Example: M.A. COMMUNICATION WITH CONCENTRATION IN JOURNALISM)

Date (month and year of Graduation)

APPROVED BY:

Adviser Date

Committee Member Date

Committee Member Date