



Theses

Whether you are working on your senior thesis or your master's culminating project, a thesis allows you to freely explore a topic that interests you. Through this freedom, theses are designed to cultivate your research, revision, and communication skills.

How do I start?

If you are creating an honor's thesis, then there is a chance that an advisor or set of advisors are already offered. If you are creating a master's thesis, then that duty is mainly up to you. Think honestly about your advisor. Who may have valuable insight into your topic? Who will hold you accountable? Who will be able to meet with you often?

Once you have chosen a topic and an advisor, you can now begin the process of the thesis. Most will follow the same path.

1. Choose a topic and advisor.
2. Discuss your ideas with your advisor.
3. Create a schedule and set deadlines with your advisor.
4. Begin doing the preliminary research.
5. Develop different research questions.
6. Draft and submit your research proposal to your advisor.
7. Revise it until approved.
8. Begin researching and drafting.
9. Submit drafts regularly to your advisor, and revise continuously.
10. Revise again!
11. Schedule your conversation, if needed. Be honest and confident!
12. Begin formatting the thesis.
 - e.g., abstract, spacing, pagination, citations, etc.
13. Submit your thesis *after* formatting, revising, and proofreading it again.
14. Final approvals and paperwork.
15. Lastly, congratulations!

Thesis Tips

1. Think about your advisor, and speak with your advisor constantly.

- Choose an advisor thoughtfully. Will your advisor have valuable input for your topic? Will the committee challenge you and help you to grow?
- Develop a relationship with your advisor. Communicate and meet regularly.

2. Set deadlines, and develop discipline.

- Create research and drafting schedules with your advisor.
- Stick to the schedule you create by developing healthy writing habits.

3. Find a writing space.

- Find a comfortable space on campus or at home where you can be productive.

4. Brainstorm research and methods, and find research in multiple places.

- Think intentionally about how you will research your topic and what questions you are asking.
- With your advisor's help, look for research in books, articles, websites, and other databases.

5. Structure the thesis.

- Include an introduction, a literature review (if necessary), a methods section (if necessary), the content, and a conclusion.

6. Get as much feedback as possible, and ask specific feedback questions.

- Look at examples, submit drafts to your advisor, and use the Writing Center.
- Ask readers to give feedback on specific areas that you know need growth.

7. Revise, revise, revise!

- Revise as many times as you are able!
- Change is essential. If you change the thesis, a chapter, or the sources, know that it means your paper is developing.

8. Reward yourself, schedule free time, and remind yourself why you are doing this.

- Schedule time where you are not working and reward yourself for reaching a goal. Maintain your mental health.
- Whether you are looking forward to your degree, your career, or something else entirely, keep it in mind.

9. Be honest and confident in the conversation.

- Believe in your paper, and be honest when asked questions. Sometimes you do not know about something. These questions are to help your paper grow.

10. Format, edit, and proofread.

- Make sure you properly format the paper, revise it regularly, and proofread it more than once.