

## **The Thesis Option:**

You may pursue original research as part of your graduate degree. The thesis option may be chosen at your initial program planning meeting or at any time during work toward the Master's Degree even though the Special Project option was initially selected.

If the thesis option is selected you must have CMD 590 - Thesis Seminar, listed on your official Planned Program of Graduate Studies. If you initially chose the Special Project track, CMD 605 - Special Projects will need to be deleted from the Planned Program and CMD 590 - Thesis Seminar added. A formal "Change in Planned Program Form" must be completed and signed by your Program Advisor and by you. This form is filed Departmentally and with The Graduate School. You receive a copy.

When you choose the thesis option the following series of events usually occur:

1. You have a viable research question to be explored;
2. You have explored the research question with a faculty member and the faculty member has agreed to serve as your major advisor for the thesis project;
3. You and your advisor have selected at least one other member of the University faculty to serve as a consultant/second reader for the project;
4. You and your advisor have obtained the most recent edition of the Graduate School's, (1) "Thesis Proposal Requirements and Guidelines," and (2) "Thesis Guidelines," and have begun to follow the accepted process for application and for completion of the thesis project;
5. At the appropriate time, under the direction of your advisor, you register for CMD - 590 Thesis Seminar, for 6 credits, or for two 3 credit units;
6. You and your advisor develop a thesis proposal and submit it to the Graduate School for approval. Work on the thesis may begin once the proposal is approved. Recall - once the thesis proposal is approved you cannot change to the Special Project option. You must complete the thesis to graduate;
7. The thesis is completed. It is submitted to the Graduate School with appropriate papers and signatures for approval;
8. The Graduate School reviews the thesis and recommends any final modifications to the form of the document;
9. You orally defend the thesis in front of the Department as arranged by your thesis advisor;

10. When the thesis is approved by the Graduate School and your defense is approved by the Department you are cleared for graduation;
11. A bound copy of the completed thesis is submitted to the Departmental chair.

Please note: If your research involves the use of human participants, you must obtain prior approval from the SCSU Institutional Review Board (IRB) before you initiate data collection. Your thesis advisor will assist you in completing the necessary paperwork.