

The Thesis Option:

Students may pursue original research as part of their graduate degree. The thesis option may be chosen at the student's 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 the student must have CMD 590, Thesis Seminar I and CMD 591, Thesis Seminar II, listed on the official Planned Program of Graduate Studies.

Steps in completing a thesis:

1. Student has a viable research question to be explored.
2. Student explores the research question with a faculty member who agrees to serve as the major advisor for the thesis project.
3. Student and advisor complete Department Thesis Contract Form.
4. Student and thesis advisor select at least one other member of the University faculty to serve as a consultant/second reader for the project.
5. Student reads information on [Graduate School Thesis Information website](#) including (1) [Thesis Proposal Guidelines](#), and (2) [Revised Thesis Guidelines](#), and follows the necessary steps.
6. Approval is obtained from the SCSU Research Protection Program [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#) before data collection is initiated. The thesis advisor will assist in completing this step.
7. At the appropriate time, under the direction of the thesis advisor and in consultation with the Graduate Program Director, student registers for CMD 590, Thesis Seminar I. During CMD 590, the student completes and submits the Thesis Proposal to the Graduate School. In order to receive a grade in CMD 590, the Thesis Proposal must be approved by the Graduate School. Once the Thesis Proposal has been approved, the student cannot change to the Special Project option and must complete the thesis in order to graduate.
8. Student registers for CMD 591 which culminates in completing and submitting the Thesis to the Graduate School with the appropriate signatures.
9. The Graduate School reviews the Thesis and recommends any modifications to the document.

10. Student may be required to orally defend the thesis within the Department.
11. After the thesis is approved by the Graduate School and the defense (if required) is approved by the Department, the student is cleared for graduation.
12. A bound copy of the completed thesis is submitted to the Department Chair.