

Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice
The University of British Columbia

Guidelines for approval and completion of the MA thesis

Number of credits: 9 credits

Format of the thesis: It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the format meets UBC's official requirements. While no precise length is specified, for a text-based study a 9-credit thesis is usually expected to be 90--100 pages. The length may vary, depending on the type of study, fieldwork component etc. Theses from other departments may be consulted as examples. The proposal length should be approximately 10 pages (2500 words).

Supervisory committee: Potential supervisors may be located by consulting the list of GRSJ faculty associates and other faculty members engaged in research in relevant areas. Other committee members may be from any appropriate department. The supervisor should be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member. A third reader needs to be chosen by the time the proposal goes forward for approval.

Timeframe: Once you have decided on an area of specialization, preferably by the end of first year, you can work to formulate a topic and find a supervisor. When you have identified a supervisor, the attached form can be completed and submitted to the graduate program assistant. If you plan to complete the program in 18 months, you should submit your topic, proposal and names of two committee members by the middle of your second term; if you plan to complete in 2 years, by the end of your second term.

Meetings with committee members: You should meet regularly with the supervisor, first to prepare the proposal (and application for Ethical Review if needed) and then to ensure progress on the thesis. The role of the second reader should be discussed and agreed upon. The third reader will participate in the proposal and approval process, read and comment on the completed thesis.

Thesis defense: The thesis must be approved by all three committee members at least one month before the date of the oral defense. The supervisor and at least one committee member should be present. Others may be invited to attend. A room for the defense may be booked with the graduate program assistant.

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MA Thesis Option: proposal and committee membership
To be completed by students taking the MA with thesis option

Name: _____ Student number: _____

Date of entry into program: _____

Thesis topic/working title: _____

Start date: _____

Primary supervisor: Name: _____ Department: _____

Second reader: Name: _____ Department: _____

Suggestions for third reader (not involved until thesis is complete, can be identified later):

Name: _____ Department: _____

Name: _____ Department: _____

To be signed by the Supervisor and Second Reader
(forward to the Graduate Program Assistant for the student's file)

I agree to be part of the supervisory committee for this MA thesis and to the topic, number of credits, and timeframe mentioned above.

Supervisor's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Second reader's signature: _____ *Date:* _____