

The MA Thesis in French, German, and Spanish

Department of Modern Languages

University of Mississippi

Sequence

1. Student will work with the thesis director to develop the idea, research question(s), methodology, etc.
2. Student will take or will have already taken our course on Research Methods.
3. Student will work with the director to develop the prospectus, form committee, etc.
4. When the director feels the prospectus is ready to defend, a defense date will be set.
5. Student will deliver a copy of the prospectus to each committee member 14 days before the defense.
6. Student defends, committee decides whether the student can continue.

Procedures

Students proposing a thesis are expected to decide on a topic and choose a tentative director as soon as possible after beginning Year One of their program so as to present a finished proposal for defense during their second semester of graduate school. The thesis director in consultation with the thesis committee decides the requirements for the proposal and the deadlines for each stage of development.

The proposal for a thesis will normally consist of statements:

1. A research question
2. A methodology or approach
3. A literature review or the state of the field describing the preliminary outline of chapters
4. A bibliography

The minimum length of the thesis proposal will be set by the thesis director. The proposal should be approved by the director of the thesis before being submitted to the

whole committee, usually during the second semester a graduate student is in attendance. Students are encouraged to download the Graduate School's style instructions for a thesis from the very beginning of the process and use them for the proposal as well.

Once a defense is scheduled, the thesis director will notify the graduate program coordinator (in advance of the proposal defense) of the date, time, and place, and afterward, of the result. The defense should be held in person, but under certain circumstances (study abroad, for example), it may occur by email or audio/video technology. It is important that the student receive comments from the whole committee at this stage of development. Following a successful proposal defense, the proposal will be placed in the student's file by the thesis director. The thesis proposal committee normally will also be the committee for a student's exams for graduation. Adjustments to the committee may be made as necessary, up to two months before the end of the exam process, the date by which the graduate school must be notified by the graduate program coordinator of the members of the comprehensive exam committee or thesis defense committee.

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