

PERF MA - GUIDELINES FOR THESIS TRACK

I. DESCRIPTION

The Thesis Track is the most writing-intensive of the three available tracks. A master's thesis is similar to a doctoral dissertation, but it is generally shorter and more narrowly focused. For that reason, this track is strongly recommended for students interested in pursuing further research in a doctoral program.

A thesis gives students the valuable opportunity to delve into interesting research for greater depth. Some employers prefer students with a thesis paper in their portfolio because it showcases their writing skills, authoritative awareness of the field, and ambition to learn.

II. COMMITTEE

After passing the Prospectus Defense, each MA candidate establishes a Thesis Committee in consultation with his/her advisor. The committee will consist of the graduate advisor (who is also the Committee Chair), at least one internal faculty, and one external faculty from another TAMU department -- more than one external faculty must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

III. THESIS FORMAT

Though every thesis project is different, suitable theses should be between 40-75 pages long and include an introduction, 3-5 chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, and appendices (when appropriate).

Students must follow [OGAPS's instructions](#) for formatting and depositing their thesis.

IV. ORAL DEFENSE

Before the Oral Defense, the candidate must:

1. Submit [Degree Plan](#) to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) in the semester prior to graduation (see [OGAPS calendar](#) for deadlines).
2. Schedule date and time of the defense in consultation with the supervisor, committee members, and Director of Graduate Studies. Thesis Oral Defenses are scheduled for 90 minutes.
3. Submit [Research Proposal Approval Form](#) at least 30 working days before the defense
4. [Apply for degree](#) and pay graduation fee.
5. Check to make sure degree program and advisory committee are up-to-date, and course work is complete.
6. Submit thesis to committee at least two weeks before the defense.
7. Submit [Request and Announcement of the Final Examination](#) at least 10 working days before the defense (see [OGAPS calendar](#) for deadlines).

Defense Procedure

1. Candidate and committee meet briefly.
2. Candidate leaves the room.
3. Committee discusses any concerns and decides the order of questioning.
4. Candidate comes back into the room.

5. Candidate gives a 10-minute statement, summarizing the major arguments of the thesis.
6. Committee members ask a round of questions. Time permitting, the committee asks a second round of questions.
7. Candidate leaves the room.
8. Committee discusses the thesis and defense, identify necessary revisions (if any), and votes on pass/fail:

Score	Description
1	Pass with no revisions (or minor revisions such as formatting or grammar)
2A	Pass with revisions to be approved by the supervisor
2B	Pass with revisions to be approved by the committee
3A	Fail with revisions
3B	Fail

9. Candidate comes back into the room.
10. Supervisor (or Director of Graduate Studies) informs the candidate of pass/fail decision and of the requested revisions (if any):

Description	Action
Pass with no revisions	Committee and supervisor sign the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> and the <i>Written Thesis Approval Form</i> ; candidate completes revisions (if any), submits the Copyright and Availability Form , and deposits thesis .
Pass with revisions to be approved by the supervisor	Committee signs the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> and the <i>Written Thesis Approval Form</i> ; candidate completes revisions and submits to supervisor for approval; supervisor signs the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> and the <i>Written Thesis Approval Form</i> ; candidate submits the Copyright and Availability Form and deposits thesis .
Pass with revisions to be approved by the committee	Candidate completes revisions and submits to committee and supervisor for approval; committee and supervisor sign the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> and the <i>Written Thesis Approval Form</i> ; candidate submits the Copyright and Availability Form and uploads thesis .
Fail with revisions	Candidate completes revisions and submits to committee and supervisor; candidate schedules a second defense, following the steps listed above.
Fail	Candidate does not receive the MA degree and does not deposit thesis.

11. The defense concludes.

PERF MA — DEGREE PLAN FOR THESIS TRACK

Course Prefix & Number	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)
Required Foundational Courses (1st Year)		9
PERF 600	Graduate Scholarship in Performance Studies	3
PERF 601	Theories in Performance Studies	3
PERF 602	Research Methods in Performance Studies	3
Required Track Courses (2nd Year)		6
PERF 691	Research for Thesis	6
Elective Internal Courses		12-15
PERF 603-682 FILM 600-694 ¹	[TBD] [TBD]	up to 15
PERF 685 ²	Directed Studies	up to 3
PERF 689	Topics in Performance Studies	up to 6
Elective External Courses³		6-9
[TBD]	[TBD]	up to 9
_____ 685 ⁴	Directed Studies	up to 3
Total		36

¹ Except FILM 685, FILM 689, and FILM 691.

² Students can take *either* one internal or one external Directed Studies course (685).

³ Students must consult with the Director of Graduate Studies before registering for courses outside the department.

⁴ See footnote 2.