

Thesis

A thesis is a research study that is conducted by the student under the supervision of a faculty thesis advisor. A thesis has four main parts and follows the APA (American Psychological Association) guidelines for format: introduction, method, results, and discussion. The purpose of a thesis is to walk you through the entire research process from start to finish. The study does not have to be original research (although we encourage you to do this!); it can be a replication of another study. You should do a thesis if you plan to go on to a doctoral program. A thesis typically ranges in length from about 35-50 pages and is published in the library. (Please visit the library to get an idea of what they are like.)

Example of these studies might be, “The Impact of Early Attachment Security on Adult Sibling Relationships”; “The Purpose of Treasured Possessions in Early Life”; or “The Relationship Between Children’s Play and Cognitive Development”.

Thesis Proposal

CD 6952-6954 (for a total of 4 units) should be completed or taken during the semester in which you plan to propose your thesis. The last course number in the title (bolded) reflects the number of units so you can choose how many units you take in a given semester. This course will be supervised by your thesis advisor, who will provide guidance throughout the writing process as well as consult with you on the selection of two additional faculty members to serve on your thesis committee. This three-person committee is responsible for approving your thesis proposal.

Once the written thesis proposal is complete you will schedule an Oral Thesis Proposal meeting with your committee members to review and assess your thesis. The Oral Thesis Proposal will be an opportunity for your committee members to ask questions and request revisions; they will also decide whether your Thesis Proposal is approved for implementation. You will need to prepare a brief summary presentation of the proposed thesis.

When writing the thesis proposal be sure to follow the format instructions provided by the office of Graduate Studies. That office has specific thesis format instructions to which you must adhere. Detailed information is provided in the Thesis/Project Handbook, which is available for download at the following website: <http://gradstudies.csusb.edu/>

Contact the department office at least two weeks in advance of your anticipated proposal date, so that a Thesis Proposal form can be prepared and a conference room reserved. (Note: The full title of your thesis and the members of your committee must be established by this time in order for your paperwork to be generated.)

*Please keep in mind that you must successfully propose your thesis before enrolling in CD-6974

Thesis Cont.

After Thesis Proposal Approval

Your next step is to get IRB approval prior to implementing your research study. Please be sure to complete the CITI training for human subjects as it is required for the IRB application. Upon approval by the IRB you may implement your thesis research.

We recommend enrolling in CD-6974 the semester you plan to graduate. This course is designed to help you finalize your thesis, which includes preparation for the oral defense and Graduate Studies review process. If you do not finish by the end of the semester, a grade of RP (Report in Progress) will be posted until you are finished (Limit 1 year). Please register for CD-6974 only once.

Oral Defense

After your thesis is complete (with the exception of typing the final copy), you must schedule your oral defense. Contact the department office at least two weeks in advance of your anticipated defense date, so that an Oral Defense form can be prepared and a conference room reserved. If you made any changes to the title of your thesis and/or the members of your committee from the time that you proposed, please inform the department so that your information can be updated.

You must have completed your oral defense by the date stipulated by department policy in order to participate in Spring commencement exercises.

Continuous Enrollment

Warning: If you have completed all other course requirements for your degree and are not taking additional courses, you should enroll in CD-6990 (Continuous Enrollment) all subsequent semesters until you have finished your thesis to maintain your current status within the program.

*Failure to maintain continuous enrollment will result in dismissal from the university. If you need to take a leave of absence, you must obtain approval from the program coordinator and the Dean of Graduate Studies.