

Responsibilities of Graduate Students Working on Thesis Projects

1. A graduate student has the primary responsibility for successful completion of his/her degree. A graduate student should be committed to his/her graduate education and should demonstrate this by efforts in the classroom and in research. A graduate student is expected to maintain a high level of professionalism, self-motivation, engagement, scholarly curiosity, and ethical standards.
2. A graduate student should be knowledgeable of the policies and requirements of their department, the Graduate College, and the university, including policies and deadlines governing thesis work. Thesis-related requirements and timelines appear in the "Graduation Requirements" section of the Graduate Catalog.
3. In selecting a thesis advisor, a graduate student should work with a faculty member whose scholarly and research interests coincide with those of the student. The student should keep in mind that it is up to the discretion of the faculty member to work on a thesis committee, and therefore the student should comport themselves with courtesy and respect toward the thesis advisor and committee members at all times during the process.
4. A graduate student should meet regularly with their thesis advisor and provide updates on their progress. They should meet all deadlines established by the thesis advisor and other committee members.
5. A graduate student should work with the thesis advisor to select a thesis committee. Graduate students should approach potential committee members about serving on their committee in a timely manner, no later than the semester before the semester they intend to defend in. The student should meet with the committee members as often as required by committee members and as needed to make steady progress by the student.
6. A graduate student working on a thesis is expected to demonstrate the intellectual commitment, initiative in research and writing, and work ethic necessary to carry the project through to completion. They should comport themselves according to the highest standards of academic conduct and professional ethics in their discipline.
7. A graduate student should be responsive to the advice of their thesis advisor and open to constructive criticism from their committee. The student should realize that effective theses often require multiple revisions, which can extend the amount of time required to complete the thesis project. The timetable to completion depends upon the thesis advisor's approval of the thesis for defense.
8. A graduate student should comply with all institutional policies, including academic program requirements. At the beginning of the semester in which the student plans to defend the thesis, the student should contact all committee members to apprise them of the pending thesis defense.
9. A graduate student should acknowledge primary responsibility to develop a career following the successful completion of a Master's degree.