

**Effective:** October 1997

**Academic Program: Graduate Studies  
THESIS**

**Approved:** October 1997  
**Revised:** Faculty Senate, September 2, 2008  
Deans' Council, October 15, 2008

**Thesis**

A master's thesis is an approved creative project or an interpretive, analytical work that offers evidence of an original point of view, supported by original research and the results of that research. In completing a thesis, the student demonstrates a capacity for independent research, an ability to organize and present empirical evidence logically and proficiency in the use of scholarly language. The final written thesis demonstrates originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate format, organization and thorough documentation. In certain circumstances, a thesis may be a literary review. A thesis is different from a research project in that it is greater in scale, complexity and time to produce. A thesis will result in a bound, publishable paper which is submitted to Ganser Library, the academic department and the Masters' Theses Directory. If students are completing a research report rather than a thesis, they should consult with their adviser concerning requirements. Research reports are not submitted to Graduate and Professional Studies. Students must fulfill departmental requirements in the completion of a research report.

If students are planning to pursue a doctoral program, they may want to strongly consider completing a thesis as part of their master's degree requirements. Many doctoral programs look to this as a requirement for admission.

The Graduate Course and Program Review Committee has adopted thesis guidelines to aid in the preparation and completion of theses. These thesis guidelines include the following information:

- I. Definition of a thesis
- II. Choosing a topic and an advisor
- III. Timeline
- IV. Acceptable formats
- V. Research support and funding
- VI. Policy on human and animal subjects
- VII. Roles and responsibilities of student, committee, adviser, coordinator and Graduate and Professional Studies
- VIII. Final preparation and binding
- IX. Grading policy
- X. Sample documents

A full copy of the thesis guidelines is available on the graduate studies website at [www.millersville.edu/admissions/graduate/current-student-resources/forms-center.php](http://www.millersville.edu/admissions/graduate/current-student-resources/forms-center.php).