

# CM Graduate Students: Thesis Guidelines

## Description of Thesis

The thesis is an in-depth research paper that explores some aspect of the construction industry and contributes knowledge or critiques the state of knowledge. The thesis generally begins with a statement of the problem to be investigated or solved and a survey of existing literature on the subject. The author then describes her/his modeling concepts, if applicable, and data collection efforts. The thesis concludes with an analysis of the data, the author's findings and conclusions, and recommendations for further study of the topic.

The thesis reports original work on the part of the author. All theses must be prepared in accordance with the [guidelines of the graduate school](#). Each graduate student writing a thesis should [check the Graduate School website for thesis formatting and electronic submission](#).

## Supervisory Committee

A supervisory committee will be established for each graduate student pursuing the thesis option. The supervisory committee is expected to provide advice, guidance, and assistance to the graduate student and to evaluate the student's performance. The supervisory committee will be composed of at least two members of the graduate faculty who are members of the Construction Management Department. The graduate student and the student's advisor determine the membership of the supervisory committee, which is reported to the Graduate Program Coordinator.

## Thesis Procedures

Graduate Students must adhere to the following procedures for the Thesis:

- Select a general topic area you wish to pursue and consult with your adviser to select a chairperson for your supervisory committee.
- Work with the committee chair to develop a written thesis proposal (three or four type-written pages). The format for the thesis proposal is:
  - Description of the problem to be studied to include research questions to be addressed.
  - Synopsis of the existing literature on the issue.
  - Description of the proposed study methodology or approach to problem solution.
  - Identification of preliminary data sources.
  - Outline of the tasks required to complete the thesis and anticipated schedule of completion.
  - Description of anticipated form of the results.
- Once the thesis proposal is completed, work with the committee chair to select another member for the supervisory committee. The entire supervisory committee must review and approve the thesis proposal.
- Once the thesis proposal has been approved, submit the names of the supervisory committee members and the approved thesis topic to the Graduate Program Coordinator using [MSCM Form 1](#).
- The advisor will then provide you with an entry code for CM 700, Master's Thesis. Students will not be allowed to enroll in CM 700 until their thesis topics have been approved by their supervisory committees.

- Schedule regular reviews with their supervisory committees throughout the preparation of your thesis and provide a complete draft to each committee member at least two weeks in advance of scheduled final examinations.

### **Final Examination Procedures**

When you have completed the thesis, the chair of the supervisory committee schedules the final examination and notifies the other committee member(s).

You or advisor are required to pick up the warrant (Application for Master's Degree) for the final examination from the Graduate Program Coordinator. Upon satisfactory completion of the final examination, the supervisory committee signs the warrant for the Master of Science in Construction Management Degree.