



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Graduate Health Sciences College Policies

Document Name: Research and Thesis - Masters
Effective Date: November 8, 2004
Document Status: Approved

Purpose

This policy defines the requirement for the research and thesis requirement for the Masters degree.

Policy Details

Requirements for the master's degree include the successful completion of a suitable research problem, the student's demonstration of scholarly attainment, and the potential to do independent research. This phase of the master's program takes the form of a major research project reported in the form of a thesis or project. (Not less than six nor more than twelve semester hours of credit for the thesis shall be included in the 30-semester credit hours required for the degree.)

The subject of the research shall be determined by the student in consultation with Faculty Committee members and the Program Chair. The scientific content and style of the thesis are the responsibility of the student and student's Faculty Committee. The thesis must be formatted and delivered according to the electronic thesis and dissertation policies ~~outlined in these bylaws under "ET/D Program Policies"~~.

NOTE: Graduate students may not participate in research which requires either an industrial or federal security classification that a priori restricts the thesis or dissertation publication rights of the student and/or the university. However, in a rare instance, student research findings may become classified after the graduate research is completed, and the post-classified status is beyond the control of the student or mentor. Students involved with research that receives a post- federal security classification will receive special consideration to accommodate their graduation requirements.

Students in the Epidemiology Program, the University of Tennessee - University of Memphis Joint Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering, Dental Sciences Program, Biomedical Sciences Program, or Pharmaceutical Sciences Program may elect to graduate with a Master of Science through either a thesis or a project



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option. In the thesis option, students will produce a treatise on their research subject and results; in the project option, students will produce a publication-quality manuscript. Both thesis and project options must be defended orally. Students graduating under the project option must satisfy all the residency, credit hour, language, Faculty Committee, and candidacy requirements ~~previously stated~~, in addition to fulfilling the specific course distribution requirements of the program. Curriculum requirements for students electing each master's degree option are described in the Catalog under the specific program.

Policy Scope

Applies to all Master's degree-seeking students

Related Policies

Faculty Committee
Oral Defense

Definitions

Faculty Committee. The committee approved to help direct the student's research.

Program Chair. The listed chair of the student's academic program.

Document History

Approved by Graduate Studies Council November 8, 2004.

Revised by Graduate Studies Council April 28, 2009, to include electronic theses.

Revised by Graduate Studies Council October 27, 2009, to forbid classified research that restricts the publication of a thesis.

Administratively revised May 14, 2013 to provide all Masters programs with a project option.

Reviewed by Graduate Studies Council November 24, 2015.