

Thesis

Policy Category:	Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Subject:	Thesis
Subsections:	Definitions ; General ; Doctoral Programs ; Master's Programs ; Completion of All Non-Thesis Degree Requirements
Approving Authority:	Senate
Responsible Committee:	Senate Committee on Academic Policy
Related Procedures:	Procedure for the Thesis Formats and Content Procedure for the Thesis Examinations and Final Submission
Officer(s) Responsible for Procedures:	Vice-Provost (Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies)
Related Policies:	*
Related Regulations:	SGPS Membership
Effective Date:	September 16, 2022
Supersedes:	*

DEFINITIONS

Thesis (or dissertation)

A thesis (or dissertation) is a formal statement of the theory, source materials, methodology, and findings of a student's major research project. It must be a complete and sufficient document that does not require subsidiary information to substantiate its findings. The examination of the thesis exposes the student's work to scholarly criticism.

POLICY

1. General

- To fulfill the degree requirement, the thesis and the candidate's oral examination must be assessed and approved by a Thesis Examination Board and meet School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) requirements for thesis content.
- For each student writing a thesis, programs are required to establish a formal Thesis Supervisory Committee for all thesis-based Masters and PhD students consisting of a supervisor and at least one other person.
- For information on SGPS Membership, please consult the Regulation on School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) Membership.

2. Doctoral Programs

- Every candidate for the Doctoral degree must complete a thesis.
- The thesis must indicate in what respects the investigation has increased knowledge of the subject.
- A candidate may not submit a thesis that has been previously accepted for a degree, but may, with the permission of the Graduate Program, incorporate material included in a previous thesis.
- Doctoral candidates must present a Public Lecture on their thesis research. The Public Lecture allows the candidate to present their research projects to a Western University community of scholars in an open forum.

3. Master's Programs

- Programs may require a thesis or make a thesis optional.

4. Completion of All Non-Thesis Degree Requirements

- Each Graduate Program specifies student milestones for satisfactory progress towards the completion of all degree requirements.
- All non-thesis degree requirements must be completed before the student and/or Graduate Chair can submit a proposal for the Thesis Examination Board to SGPS.