

BCN 6971
Thesis Research
Course Syllabus

Faculty member responsible for course:

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Office Hours: TBA

Prerequisites: Permission from Advisor and Director of Masters Programs

Material and Supply Fee: \$0

Textbook: N/A

Software: N/A

Readings: N/A

Attendance: As arranged with Advisor.

Note: It is strongly advised that the student have the following before registering for this course.

1) Advisor; 2) Full Advisory Committee; 3) Data Analysis complete; 4) Thesis half written

All MSBC students are required to complete a thesis. The thesis demonstrates the ability to:

- identify and construct a problem/thesis statement
- identify and utilize source materials and precedents
- carry out research
- analyze data
- develop defensible conclusions
- make a persuasive argument

The thesis should make an original contribution to knowledge in the field of Construction Management. There is no predetermined length, but most theses range between 75 and 150 pages (typed, double-spaced).

CHOOSING A TOPIC

Students should begin thinking of possible thesis topics, or at least specific areas of interest, early in their MSBC program, preferably in the first semester. Ideally, the topic should be related to the student's area of specialization (guided electives in addition to the core required coursework) and should also fit with the student's intellectual interests and career aspirations.

THESIS CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

Students should consult with appropriate professor or professors whose expertise relates most closely to the proposed topic concerning the feasibility of the topic and the willingness of the professor or professors to direct the thesis. The Director of Masters Programs can assist in identifying potential thesis advisors. The thesis chair (Advisor) should be appointed by the middle of the student's second semester. The thesis chair should be a member of the College of Design, Construction and Building Construction faculty.

In addition to the thesis chair, the thesis committee will include one additional faculty member. Members of the thesis committee other than the chair do not need to be members of the Historic Preservation Committee faculty, and special appointments are encouraged for qualified individuals. Special appointments must be approved by the graduate coordinator.

THESIS PROPOSAL

Students submit a formal thesis proposal no later than the beginning of their third semester (not including summers). The proposal should explain the problem/issue to be addressed in the thesis, identify preliminary research materials, specify the contribution the thesis is intended to make, and provide a preliminary plan for research, writing, and other activities.

The committee members should approve the proposal and make suggestions for further research and writing as well as plans for the summer. A copy of the proposal will be maintained in the student's file.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Students should begin reading about their thesis area(s) and exploring potential resources early in the MSBC program. Taking courses related to and writing course papers on the thesis topic will facilitate completion of the project. Thesis research may involve field-based study, library-based study, or most likely, some combination. The kind of research most appropriate to the thesis will vary by topic and discipline. Students should consult closely with their thesis advisors throughout the process.

COMPLETION AND DEFENSE OF THE THESIS

Students should consult with the thesis advisors about their research and writing schedule. Normally students will submit drafts of individual chapters to the thesis advisor as they are completed.

The thesis chair will advise whether and when drafts of the individual chapters or a draft of the entire thesis should be distributed to the other members of the committee for comments or suggestions. Students should submit a revised draft of the entire thesis to the Director of Masters Programs, and with the permission of the Director of masters Programs, to the full committee prior to setting a defense date. Adequate time should be allotted for revisions after the defense.

The oral defense should take place at least two weeks prior to the graduate school deadline for first submission. Students should follow the format or style guidelines appropriate to the thesis discipline (i.e. Chicago Manual, MLA, Social Science, etc.). For specific requirements of the UF Graduate School see the following: <http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/editorial/introduction.html>