

School of Library and Information Studies
The University of Alabama

THESIS GUIDELINES

Thesis Policy

Candidates for the master's degree under the thesis plan must earn a minimum of thirty-six hours of credit, including fifteen hours of required courses, a three-hour required management and administration course, and six hours of thesis credit (LS 599); no more than six hours of thesis credit may be counted toward the degree.

Intent to elect the thesis option must be formally declared within the first nine hours of enrollment in graduate LIS courses. The declaration of intent must indicate the subject area of the research and the faculty member who has agreed to direct the thesis, and the student must provide a rationale for undertaking the thesis.

The student must identify a three-person thesis committee, to consist of at least two full-time SLIS faculty members, at least one of whom must be a full member of the graduate faculty; a third committee member may be a faculty member from another department of the University, a faculty member from another institution, or a well-qualified practitioner. All committee members must hold appropriate Graduate Faculty status.

The student must obtain committee approval for a prospectus for the thesis project prior to enrolling in thesis credit; a formal defense of the prospectus will constitute the final examination for the MLIS degree. The prospectus should address the substance and methods of the thesis research, outline the thesis itself, and a preliminary bibliography, and is expected to be approximately 10 double-spaced pages in length (without bibliography).

The student must complete and successfully defend a thesis that meets the requirements established by the Graduate School. The thesis defense shall be made orally before the student's thesis committee and will be open to the public.

Thesis Planning Guide

First semester:

Student discusses thesis option with academic advisor.

Prior to completion of nine hours:

Student identifies faculty member to serve as thesis director.

Student and thesis director identify subject area for thesis research.

Student files Declaration of Intent to Elect Thesis Option.

Upon completion of twelve hours:

Student files Admission to Candidacy for the Master's Degree under Plan I – thesis.
Student and thesis director identify a minimum of two additional thesis committee members
Student files Thesis Committee Form.

Prior to enrolling in thesis (LS 599) credit:

Student prepares and defends thesis prospectus and files Completion of Final Examination for the MLIS – Plan I (Thesis) form.

Following successful defense of thesis prospectus:

Student enrolls in and completes a minimum of 6 hours of thesis (LS 599) credit.

Prior to completion of degree:

Student schedules public defense of thesis and announces defense date and time at least one week in advance of defense.

Student successfully completes public oral defense of thesis.

Thesis committee files Thesis Final Defense Form.

Thesis committee files Committee Acceptance Form for Electronic Thesis or Dissertation.

Student files Publication Form for Electronic Thesis or Dissertation.

Student files completed thesis.

Declaration of Intent to Elect Thesis Option
(To be filed within the first nine hours of enrollment in the MLIS program)

Name: _____ CWID: _____

Student Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Academic Advisor: _____

Academic Advisor Signature: _____

Thesis Advisor: _____

Thesis Advisor Signature: _____

Tentative Thesis Topic: _____

Director's Signature _____

Thesis Committee Form

Name: _____ CWID: _____

Student Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Date: _____

Thesis Advisor: _____

Thesis Committee Member: _____

Thesis Committee Member: _____

Thesis Committee Member: _____