

11.04.99.R0.21 Master's Degree Research Component

Approved September 1, 1996

Reviewed by Graduate Council FY02

Revised June 21, 2010



Procedure Statement

The awarding of a master's degree implies not only the mastery of specific knowledge in one's field of study but also the acquisition of skills necessary to undertake successful research. Research in any field entails an organized effort to test theories, solve problems, and advance knowledge.

Reason for Procedure

To assure that all master's candidates understand their discipline's research methods and means of evaluation and application, the university requires one of two departmental research course options.

Procedures and Responsibilities

1. Option I: 518, Thesis, is a significant work based on an original idea and which makes a creative contribution to and advances knowledge in the student's areas of interest and expertise. It is designed to provide a culminating experience to the master's degree.
2. All students writing a thesis must submit a departmentally approved thesis proposal to the Graduate School at least one semester prior to graduation. The student must also be enrolled in three semester hours of 518 during the semester in which the thesis is accepted by the Graduate School.
3. All theses involving human subjects must be in compliance with University Procedure 15.99.01.R0.01 Human Subjects Protection.
4. A student must enroll in the 518 course within the major department.
5. Option II: 595. The required course shall carry the course number, 595, but the title, as long as it conveys the research component, may vary from program to program.

6. The 595 course is required for all non-thesis master's degree programs.
 7. The department offering the 595 course has autonomy in its organization and instructional operation; however, completion of the course will be evidenced by a product that shall be available for reference in the department for a minimum of three years.
 8. All 595 research components involving human subjects must be in compliance with University Procedure 15.99.01.R0.01 Human Subjects Protection.
 9. A student must enroll in the 595 course within the major department. Exceptions to this policy must receive written permission from the department head and be filed in The Graduate School.
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Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

System Policy [*11.04 Admission Standards*](#)

University Procedure [*15.99.01.R0.01 Human Subjects Protection*](#)

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