

THESIS GUIDELINES

Writing a thesis is particularly appropriate for those students planning to pursue a PhD in rhetoric, composition, or technical communication. The following guidelines are designed to guide students through the thesis-writing process in the MATC program at Texas State University.

1. Select a Thesis Director.
 - Choose someone with a background and/or interest in your topic
 - Keep in mind that individual faculty in the MATC program may direct only 5 theses concurrently.
2. Select at least two additional faculty to serve as members on your thesis committee.
3. Get a copy of the "Thesis Handbook" distributed by the Graduate College (available online).
4. Familiarize yourself with important procedures and deadlines detailed in the handbook. The Graduate College observes strict deadlines for submission of thesis materials, especially in relation to commencement. These deadlines fall approximately 1 1/2 months before actual commencement dates.
5. Work with your thesis director to develop a thesis proposal ("Thesis A").
6. If relevant, complete all steps required to receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.
7. Submit the thesis proposal to your committee chair and committee members for approval and signatures.
8. Submit the thesis proposal to the Graduate College for approval and signatures.
9. Draft and revise the thesis in consultation with your director.
10. Ask committee members how active they would like to be in the thesis writing process. Some thesis committee members elect to work with the student and his/her director throughout the thesis writing process; most, however, prefer to read the thesis only when the student and director have decided that it is in a "finished" state—typically toward the end of the student's enrollment in the second semester of thesis hours ("Thesis B").
11. Schedule the oral defense of the thesis.
12. Submit copies of the finished thesis to committee members at least two weeks before your scheduled defense date.
13. Complete 1-hour oral defense.