MA Projects and Theses

Comparison

Criteria	Project	Thesis
Definition	o Is a culminating written product (can be a kit, model, etc…)	o Is a culminating written research paper. o Is a systematic study of a significant problem.
Focus	o Is often more practical, should show originality, critical thinking, appropriate organization and format. o Should be accurate and thoroughly documented.	o Is driven by critical inquiry; typically leads to empirical investigation, or theory testing, through established quantitative and/or qualitative methods. o Should be accurate and thoroughly documented.
Emphasis	o Is on scholarly thinking and critical analysis.	o Is more theoretical; rigorously tests the effectiveness of a proposed intervention using a data driven approach.
Purpose	o To further the knowledge of the student in an area of personal interest to further the interests or knowledge of a group, or to provide tools for educational/research purposes	o To further students' knowledge in an area of research inquiry such as academic or social phenomena and engage them in rigorous research skills
Format	May be, but is certainly not limited to: o a critical review in an area of special interest to the student, (for example, a model of intervention), including a review of theoretical foundations, value base, evidence regarding its effectiveness, etc. o a resource, handbook, videotape, workshop or other kind of training module, developed from a sound literature review, and designed to transmit knowledge and disseminate information o a program proposal or a program evaluation o an empirical study (qualitative or quantitative) which is exploratory or pilot in nature, with a relatively small number of subjects, or with an unrepresentative sample. o a needs assessment	May be, but is not limited to: o a critical review which leads to theory building or theory testing. o a critical review which leads to the development of a hypothesis, and the testing of that hypothesis. o the development of an intervention, followed by the testing or evaluation of that intervention. o the design of a program, and the evaluation of the program's effectiveness. o an empirical study, using quantitative and/or qualitative methods, which follows a rigorous methodological approach o a needs assessment which leads to a better understanding of the dynamics in various aspects of the field, to disseminate this knowledge for future research

Length	o Minimum of 15000 words excluding references and appendices	o Minimum of 25000 words excluding references and appendices.
Registration	o Is worth three credits	o Is worth six credits.
Committee membership	o Project is supervised and guided by one Advisor, who is an Education faculty member. The final report is reviewed by the advisor and one committee member.	o Thesis is supervised and guided by one Advisor, who is an Education faculty member. Final thesis report is reviewed by the Advisor, and two committee members, with at least one being from outside the department

Components

Graduate students should follow the University-wide library's formatting structure available on the LAU website, and APA style, for the final document.

The final document should have the following sections

Chapter	Thesis	Project	Project KIT
1	Introduction: Research Problem, study purpose and context, research questions	Introduction: Research Problem, study purpose and context, research questions	Introduction: Project Goals
2	Literature Review	Literature Review	Literature Review
3	Methodology	Methodology	Components of the kit and method development
4	Results and Findings	Results and Findings	Piloting, Results and Findings
5	Discussion & Conclusion	Summary and Discussion	Implications
6		Conclusion/Implications	
	References	References	References
	Appendix	Appendix	Appendix

Note: a kit may be one of the following:
1. An instrument (e.g. observation or supervision forms, diagnostic tests) that can be used in schools/ educational institutions plus piloting the instrument and reporting suggestions for modifications and the final version.
2. A complete curriculum unit with objectives, content, activities, suggestions for assessment, etc.
3. A design for facilities or resources that can be used in schools /educational institutions plus piloting it on relevant audience or eliciting perceptions of target users about it.

GRADUATE FORUM (twice a year; mid fall and mid spring semesters)
The Department of Education invites graduate students to a formal meeting during which they would share with peers and department faculty an overview of their ideas for their research project or thesis and/or the materials they will be developing (this could be through an oral presentation or a poster session)
The graduate forum will also have the objective of promoting interactions amongst other graduate students in their program and to start engaging in scholarly activity and in higher-level thinking

Pre-Proposal Procedures
After completion of 15 credits with a minimum grade of B in each course, you should agree with an Education full-time faculty member requesting their approval to be your main Advisor. When a faculty member agrees to be an Advisor, s/he and will remain as your primary Advisor until the completion of your thesis/project.

Once approved, you will work with your advisor to prepare a concept paper providing a synopsis of your intended purpose, research questions, and possible methods. The concept paper should be submitted and presented to the department in the graduate forum.
Based on the intent and scope of the research questions, the advisor, in agreement with the student will determine whether the student will pursue a thesis track or a project.

Within the first month upon registration for project/thesis, you will:
1. Consult with your Advisor to nominate potential committee member(s), and
2. Set a timeline with your Advisor toward completion of the requirements according to the following:

Project Timeline

Upon registration for a project, you will have ONLY three **consecutive** semesters excluding summers to defend your project from the time you register and pay for it.

Note: Even if you don't register for one or more semester(s), they will **still be counted within your timeline**. If you don't complete your work within the allotted timeline (within the 3 consecutive semesters), you will have to re-register and pay. You may lose your advisor and/or topic and will have to repeat the process of presenting a potentially new topic at the forum.

Semester 1 upon registration for project

Week 10-14 of the semester   Defending Project Proposal and securing IRB approval

Semester 2

Weeks 1-15   Collecting and analyzing data
             Starting write-up

Semester 3

Week 5-8   Preparing for the defense
             Submitting the final draft to committee members

Students who fail to submit the completed manuscript by the 8th week of the semester lose their right of defending their project by the end of that semester.

Week 9-10   Compiling required paperwork by advisor to include the "Turnitin Originality Report" to be submitted to Dean's Office

Weeks 11-14   Defending and subsequently obtaining signatures from committee members

Note: The timeline gives the maximal deadlines. Students may want to defend a project proposal earlier.

Thesis Timeline

Upon registration for a thesis, you will ONLY have four <u>**consecutive**</u> semesters excluding summers to defend your thesis from the time you register and pay for it.

Note: Even if you don't register for one or more semester(s), they will **still be counted within your timeline**. If you don't complete your work within the allotted timeline (within the 4 consecutive semesters), you will have to re-register and pay. You may lose your advisor and/or topic and will have to repeat the process of presenting a potentially new topic at the forum.

Semester 1 upon registration for thesis

Week 10-14 of the semester   Defending Thesis Proposal and securing IRB approval

Semester 2

Weeks 1-15   Collecting and analyzing data

Semester 3

Week 5-8   Resuming analysis and write-up

Semester 4

Week 5-8   Preparing for the defense
                                          Submitting the final draft to committee members
                                        Sending the manuscript to the library for structure and format checking
                                        Students who fail to submit the completed manuscript by the 8th week of the semester lose their right of defending their thesis by the end of that semester.

Week 9-10   Announcing date of defense issued from Dean's Office
                                          <u>NOTE</u>: 2 weeks advance notice prior to defense date is required
                                          Compiling required paperwork by advisor to include the "Turnitin Originality Report" to be submitted to Dean's Office

Weeks 11-14   Defending and subsequently obtaining signatures from committee members

Getting clearance from library and paperwork towards graduation
Paperwork should be **approved** by library at least **15 working days** prior to submission of the Change of Grade Form.