

Thesis Policy

Purpose

"The master thesis should be evidence of the graduate's ability to carry out independent investigation and to present the results in a clear and systematic form", (University Bulletin). This thesis is a work of scholarship exhibiting proficiency in research and a depth of knowledge in the chosen subject. While the masters is the terminal degree in landscape architecture, a thesis is not expected to be definitive or original research.

Thesis Topic

The thesis allows opportunity to explore an emerging area within the profession, or to research a topic that is currently within the scope of professional practice. The thesis topic must have relevancy within the profession and practice of landscape architecture, must be researchable using acceptable research methods, and must have a body of literature to draw upon. The thesis should allow the student to develop mastery of the topic area, and to extend the knowledge of the practice in a modest manner. Topics that are professional in nature are appropriate, since this is a professional degree.

The execution of traditional design project, such as a park or housing environment, is discouraged; however, the examination of one or more design projects to illustrate, test or explore a theory or practice is appropriate and encouraged.

Funding of the thesis by a public agency or some other source is encouraged; however, its intellectual scope should not be constrained by the limitations of a contract. The thesis should not repeat a project as it would be conducted in an office unless it is part of a broader examination of a planning or design issue.

Thesis Committee

The thesis will be supervised by a committee of at least two members. The chairperson and one other member must be Landscape and Graduate School faculty. Students are encouraged to seek help beyond the Department including individuals outside the University if their expertise or professional experience is useful.

Thesis Topic Approval

Each thesis student must present their proposed topic, research method and data analysis techniques to the faculty for discussion and approval prior to finalizing the thesis committee.

Students are encouraged to arrange a formal presentation to the College or faculty when complete.

Thesis Preparation

Thesis procedural steps include:

1. *Meet with their advisor at the beginning of the quarter **prior** to the thesis to ensure that all the program requirements have been met.*
2. *Complete the following prior to registration for LARC 700-Thesis:*
 - a) *Fill out a Thesis Proposal form.*
 - b) *Present the thesis proposal to a meeting of the faculty and fellow graduate students.*
 - c) *Record with the Graduate Program Coordinator the proposed thesis committee including chairperson and other committee members.*
 - d) *Finalize the preliminary proposal, obtain the signatures of the committee, chairperson and Graduate Program Coordinator, and submit it to the Program Assistant for a LARC 700 thesis card.*
3. ***Deadline:** An application for graduation must be completed during the first two weeks of the quarter in which the work is expected to be completed. This application will be valid for two consecutive quarters (including summer quarter). You must be registered during the quarter in which thesis is completed.*

4. *Schedule progress reviews with your committee. Your committee should meet at least four times during the preparation of a thesis, including prior to completion of the rough draft and the completion of the final copy.*
5. *Review the latest requirements for the preparation of thesis in the Graduate School, particularly the checklist; Sections 1, 2, and 4; and Samples A and B. Ask a thesis secretary in the Graduate School about questions not answered in the manual before final preparation. Drafts and samples of the work may be presented for preliminary approval. Do **not** follow thesis formats in the library.*
6. *Reproduce two hardbound copies for the Graduate School, one bound copy for the Department and any courtesy copies for the members of the committee that seem appropriate. Sign all documents, obtain committee members signatures on the completed application and return it to the Program Assistant with photocopies for the Departmental files.*

Department of Landscape Architecture