

## **Non-Thesis Guidelines**

### *Description*

The Department of Kinesiology offers programs of study that lead to a

- Master of Science degree in Exercise Physiology
- Master of Science degree in Kinesiology

These degree programs allow students a choice of preparation and opportunities to specialize in biomechanics, exercise physiology, measurement and evaluation, motor behavior, and sports medicine. The goal of the graduate program in kinesiology is to provide students with the theory, knowledge, and skills necessary to apply the principles of human movement in a variety of community, research, clinical or athletic settings, or to pursue advanced study at the doctoral level.

To earn a Master's of Science degree in Exercise Physiology, the student is required to complete a thesis. Students who are working towards earning a Master's of Science in Kinesiology can select a Non-Thesis track. These students are required to write a scholarly paper in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements. The scholarly papers are independent and in excess of requirements for other graduate level courses.

Subjects for scholarly papers should be selected by the graduate student with the help of the Advisor and subject to approval by the student's Examination Committee. The scholarly paper topic should be decided early in the student's program to allow time for thorough library research, writing, and revision as required.

The scholarly paper should consist of include a critical review of literature related to a specific question. In general, the main difference between a thesis and non-thesis option is that the thesis includes conducting an experiment whereas the non-thesis does not.

### *Protocol*

The protocol for completing the non-thesis option is the same as the thesis option. Therefore, the student should check with the Graduate College regarding deadlines and forms that should be filed to complete a thesis.

The outline of non-thesis option protocol is:

1. Pre-prospectus meeting: Upon approval of Examination Committee Chair, the student organizes a round-table meeting with department committee members to discuss non-thesis topic. Upon approval, the student begins writing the scholarly paper.
2. Prospectus meeting: Upon approval of Examination Committee Chair, the student organizes a meeting attended by full examination committee to present an outline of the scholarly paper. This is an opportunity to discuss at length the importance of the proposed scholarly work as well as any details regarding the scholarly content.
3. Defense: Upon approval of Examination Committee Chair, the student organizes a meeting to give a final presentation of the scholarly work.

The student is encouraged to identify the topic of the non-thesis option prior to the end of the first year of study.

*Scholarly Paper Format*

The student must select a target scientific journal that the scholarly paper will be submitted to upon completion and follow the guidelines for submission specific to that journal. However, in general it is expected that the scholarly paper will include the following:

1. Introduction describing the purpose of the paper and delineates the subject area to be covered.
2. Main body consisting of a review of literature.
3. Critical analysis or discussion of the material covered.
4. Summary or conclusion section.
5. References

Upon successful completion of the scholarly work, it is recommended that the student should bind three copies of the paper with one copy each for the student, advisor and department.