

The Master's Thesis Process

Choosing a topic and an advisor

While students are encouraged to think about possible topics early in their graduate careers, the master's thesis process starts only after a student has completed all other requirements for the MA degree. At this point students should begin to talk with faculty members and the Executive Officer about the advisability of writing on a variety of topics and about choosing an advisor. Any member of the CUNY Graduate Faculty may advise an MA thesis. When the student has chosen an advisor and a topic has been agreed upon, the advisor will recommend another faculty member to be the second reader, and communicate the decisions to the Executive Officer.

The Thesis

A master's thesis usually has between 75-125 double-spaced pages including a bibliography. It is often an expanded version of a previously written research paper, but it could be on any suitable topic in the area of classical studies. As a rule, a master's thesis shows competency in research and writing, but need not create new knowledge in the field.

Depositing the thesis

When the thesis is complete and has been approved by the advisor and the second reader, it is ready to deposit. The student is responsible for making certain that the format of the thesis conforms to the Graduate Center's requirements, and that it is correctly deposited. As work on the thesis goes forward, students should consult with the Dissertation Librarian at the Mina Rees Library about formatting and deposit procedures. The cover page must have signatures of the Executive Office and the advisor. If one or both of them are unavailable to sign in person, signed copies may be scanned and returned by email or faxed to the Program office.

Deadlines

There are deadlines publicized in the official academic calendar for depositing theses at the beginning of each semester and in April, for degrees granted in October, February and May. A student must be registered in order to deposit a thesis and receive a degree. MA students who have received degree in the previous calendar year are invited to participate in the May commencement ceremonies, but it is not necessary to attend commencement in order to receive the degree.