



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIVE SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

Masters Thesis Guidelines

The master's thesis process provides an opportunity for students to work with a faculty mentor to develop and conduct original research. The product of the research process is the master's thesis, which is a scholarly paper in scientific format suitable for oral presentation and/or publication. A student will graduate with honors if their completed thesis is "Accepted" by the review committee and they have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Research Requirements:

1. **Proposal Development:** The student and faculty mentor will determine the scope and feasibility of the proposed project. The student will prepare a two to three page proposal describing the research project. The proposal must include a literature review, research questions and hypotheses, methodology and projected time-line for completion of the work. Research involving human subjects often requires prior approval through the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects, which is a process that can take time (UCAIHS, <http://www.nyu.edu/ucaih/>). The student should factor UCAIHS approval into the timeline.
2. **Proposal Review:** The student will submit the proposal to the Department Chair who will coordinate the review with two faculty members. The review committee will determine if the proposal is (1) Approved; (2) Approved with Revision; or (3) Not Approved. This information will be conveyed to the applicant and faculty mentor within two weeks of the proposal submission date.
3. **Thesis Format:** The thesis should be approximately 25-40 doubled spaced pages in length (including tables, figures and bibliography) and in scientific format adhering to APA guidelines. Required sections include title page, abstract (200 words), Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, Bibliography, Figure Captions, Tables, Figures. Appendices can be included if necessary.
4. **Thesis Review:** The student will submit the thesis to the faculty review committee no later than six weeks prior to the end of their final semester of graduate study. The review committee will determine if the thesis is (1) Accepted; (2) Accepted with Revision; or (3) Not Accepted. This information will be conveyed to the applicant and faculty mentor within two weeks of the proposal submission date.
5. **Thesis Presentation:** The student will present the thesis at either a local, national or international research conference (including proposals accepted for a conference to be held following graduation) or a department research event.

Coursework:

Students must complete the following course requirements that may count towards elective credits:

1. A two-semester 0-credit honors course sequence:
 - Honor's Research I (CSCD-GE-2424)
 - Honor's Research II (CSCD-GE-2425)
 2. A minimum of one semester of Research Colloquium in CSD (CSCD-GE 2420 for 0 or 1 credit)
- Students can also enroll for one credit of Independent study with their faculty mentor (CSCD-GE 2300) or audit the Undergraduate Honors Seminar (CSCD-UE 1990).

Application Process:

To apply, students must submit the following documentation to the Department Chair:

- Master thesis application form signed by faculty mentor
- Two to three page proposal
- Current transcript
- Resumé