Students who choose the option of writing a thesis or dissertation must adhere to the following:

1. Identify a major professor
   - Choose research topic
   - Student and Major professor select committee
     - Select members to serve on the research advisory committee. The committee usually consists of four to five members; at least one comes from outside of the student's major area of emphasis. Once the advisory committee has been selected and approved, they will serve as advisors for the candidate in the development of the research proposal.

Before the end of the second semester of enrollment, the student must complete:

A. A Planned Degree Program
B. Attend the thesis/dissertation preparation and formatting workshop
C. Prepare an acceptable thesis or dissertation proposal. All thesis and dissertation papers must conform to the APA, Chicago or MLA writing styles (depending on the preference of the specific department).
2. The subject of the thesis/dissertation should be chosen from the candidate's field of major interest and must be approved by the departmental advisory committee. The thesis/dissertation should reveal a capacity to carry on independent study or research.

3. The student is advised to consult the School of Graduate Studies and the publication "Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines for Graduate Students" for general information regarding the preparation of a thesis/dissertation. Located on the Graduate webpage or click link below.

   Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines

4. Each student is required to enroll in at least one hour of thesis/dissertation writing during the semester they expect to defend the thesis/dissertation. The student must also submit a committee-approved draft to the Office of Graduate Studies using the ETD process (for more information see: Action Research/Final Research paper submission criteria on the Graduate School website) at least two weeks prior to the scheduling of the oral defense.

5. Immediately following the candidate’s oral defense examination, the student should consult either the advisor or the Graduate Office or the Thesis and Dissertation Guide for specific directions concerning binding, labeling and other routine procedures.