

HIST 6302—Thesis Writing/Thesis Defense

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GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THESES IN GRADUATE PROGRAMS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

A thesis is a written account based on original research or a creative project in appropriate fields presented by a candidate for a master's degree as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree. The thesis topic or project must be approved in advance by the student's graduate committee and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The completed thesis must meet exactly the stylistic requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and be acceptable to the members of the student's graduate committee and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in both the quality and quantity of research and the quality of the writing. The thesis must be defended by the student in a publicly announced and open defense before final acceptance of the thesis. It is the intent of these thesis guidelines to be general and flexible enough to be adaptable to any form manual which a student is required to follow in any discipline. Each form manual, however, differs somewhat from the next, and, when in doubt, the student's thesis committee chair should be consulted. In order to obtain unity among the theses of the College of Arts and Sciences, the guidelines included here must be followed and have precedence over all others, regardless of style manual followed. As a reminder, students must be registered throughout the thesis process—while using university facilities and receiving guidance from faculty, at the time of the defense, and during the semester or summer session of graduation. The thesis should be submitted by a student pursuing the Master of Arts or Master of Science degree in accordance with the requirements set forth by his or her discipline and committee chair. A student should consult with his or her committee chair as to the form and style to be used. Various departments use guides particular to their own requirements (Table 2). The following standard guides may be purchased in the campus bookstore, and reference copies are kept in the Dean's office and the Wildenthal Memorial Library: for Behavioral and Social Sciences in the field of History, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, latest edition, Turabian.