

The Thesis

Thesis students are required to write a high quality, roughly 55-page, thesis on a relevant and important issue in the field of TESOL.

The process of writing the thesis officially begins in the beginning of the 4th semester. At that time those students interested in writing a thesis will be asked to submit a thesis proposal first to the department and soon after to the university administration. The proposal will be presented in a group meeting in the 2nd week of the semester. Students whose proposals are deemed acceptable will be officially provided with her or his thesis advisor at that point and the process starts in earnest. Thesis students need to do a lot of the work on their thesis, often the data collection, during their 4th semester. The actual 5th, thesis, semester usually comprises some writing and optimally revision of the rough draft thesis. Guidelines and procedures for writing the thesis are determined through close consultation with the thesis advisor. It is up to the thesis student to make the time and make a schedule to meet with their advisor.

A thesis student is not inescapably a thesis student until the beginning of their fifth semester. Until that point they are still able to shift to the Practicum and they do this by simply registering for the Practicum I and II courses during the course registration period of their 5th semester. Failure to register for the practicum courses puts one in the thesis track. Once the course registration period has passed there is no way to change one's focus and one is committed to completing the thesis.

Thesis Defense

Thesis students must present and publicly defend their thesis in front of a panel of experts. The thesis defense generally occurs at about week 10 of the semester. Students are expected to present a completed, well-designed, and well-written thesis at this point. Thesis students who fail to pass the thesis defense will not be allowed to graduate in that semester.

Final Submission

Those who pass the thesis defense need to make the revisions that have been given to them at the defense. They typically have 4 weeks to make the necessary revisions and 2 weeks to polish the format. The revision process is conducted by the student working together with her or his advisor. The advisor needs to sign off on the revisions before the students can start the final formatting and submission process. Thesis students who have not satisfactorily revised their thesis will not be able to graduate on time even if they have passed the defense.

The link below provides access to the university library's thesis database. Sookmyung TESOL MA students can go there to take a look at previous theses.

<http://dcollection.lib.sookmyung.ac.kr/jsp/searchF/DcBrDept.jsp>