



Guideline of Thesis Writing for Thesis Track Students

When a student is enrolled as thesis track, the student is required to complete 33 credits of course work:

THESIS TRACK

CORE REQUIREMENTS (33 credits):

HFT 6280 Globalization and Competitive Methods of Multinational Hospitality Companies

HFT 6225 Multicultural Human Resources Management for the Hospitality Industry OR

HFT 6246 Organizational Behavior in the Hospitality Industry

HFT 6296 Strategic Management for Hospitality and Tourism

HFT 6257 Global Contemporary Issues in the Hospitality and Tourism Industries

HFT 6596 Marketing Management

HFT 6477 Financial Management for the Hospitality Industry

HFT 6697 Hospitality Law Seminar

HFT 6586 Research Methods

HFT 6297 Seminar in Management Methods

HFT 6972 Thesis

Elective course

Definition of Thesis. The submission of a Thesis is an option and may be used to partially fulfill the requirements for a Master Science Degree in Hospitality Management. The manuscript is a scholarly statement resulting in 3 credit hours of research and related preparation.

Before you decide to get on Thesis Track, the student MUST notice that there are several undisputable guidelines for filing several important forms established by University Graduate School:

1. **M-1 is to be completed at the time your committee is formed but no later than 2 semesters before the anticipated graduation semester.** For more information: http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/M1_Appointment_of_Thesis_Committee.pdf
2. **M-2 is to be completed at least 1 semester before the anticipated graduation semester.** For information: http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/M2_Masters_Thesis_Proposal.pdf
3. **M-3 must be submitted to the UGS at least 3 WEEKS BEFORE the date of the defense or by the UGS deadline (whichever date is the earliest).** For information: http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/M3_Preliminary_Approval_of_Thesis_Scheduling_Oral_Defense.pdf
4. **There are other forms, such as Non-FIU Commitment Form, Form M-1r (PDF) Appointment of Revised Thesis Committee and Final ETD Approval**

Form (PDF) Approval of defense, thesis, and electronic submission of thesis, please check “Thesis Forms” under: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/student-forms.shtml>

General Guidelines for Procedure and Format. The student’s work is carried out under the direction and supervision of his/her major professor and two committee members who supervise it for the intellectual content. A committee needs to be formed according to UGS’s guideline (Form 1). Before beginning work on a thesis, a candidate must present a proposal to his/her major professor and committee members for approval (at least one semester before the completion of the thesis) and please see UGS’s Form 2.

Current Graduate Faculty who can serve as major professors and committee members approved by UGS:

Ya Hui (Elegance) Chang, Ed.D.
Daniel Cormany, Ph.D.
Miranda Kitterlin, Ph.D.
Carolyn Lusby, Ph.D.
Eunju Suh, Ph.D.
Mary Tanke, Ph.D.
Randall Upchurch, Ph.D.
Myongjee (Michelle) Yoo, Ph.D.
Aaron Z Welch, Ph.D.
Jinlin Zhao, Ph.D.

The major professor and committee members may specify certain aspects of style, such as footnote style and placement, and the manner in which references are cited. The Candidate is urged to consult with his/her major professor early in the preparation of the manuscript regarding both the subject and the general plan of investigation as well as style preferences. Style manuals are available for purchase at the FIU Bookstore. Format includes manuscript arrangement, organization of specific preliminary pages, spacing, typeface, margins, page number order, page number placement, and the requirement for permission to reproduce copyrighted material. For the project, the student is strongly encouraged to use "APA" style. The candidate needs to make a public announcement three weeks before the oral defense of his/her thesis, please follow UGS’s Form 3.

The Proposal. Both the preliminary and the formal proposal required of the student will have several functions and benefits. A clear and lucid description of a problem and a proposed method of solving it is a learning process and helps the students avoid oversights and possible mistakes. The proposals also help the members of the guidance committee to provide appropriate assistance to the student in his/her task.

Format of the Proposal. The proposal should explain the problem to be investigated and convince the major professor and the committee members that the problem merits investigation. It should show that the student has read the relevant and recent literature on the subject and it should contain a list of materials consulted during the preliminary stages of research.

The formal proposal should include:

background information related to the research topic
purpose of the research
methodology, and
statistics and analysis to be used.
the formal proposal should not exceed five (5) pages.

Research Methodology

The student has the choice of utilizing either the quantitative or qualitative research method.
The student must have graduate statistic classes before considering to use the quantitative method. The student who chooses qualitative methodology must understand the specific method he/she is going to use, such as case study, observation, Delphi analysis, content analysis, etc.

Conducting the thesis. When the proposal is approved by the major professor and committee, the student should conduct the thesis step by step with the proposed methodology. The student needs to report periodically to the major professor and committee about his or her progress.

Defense of the thesis. Upon finishing the project, the student needs to set up time to defend the project, to get the final approval from the major professor and committee. Eventually, the project needs to be approved and signed by the Dean of the School and Dean of UGS.

The Format for the Thesis:

Preliminary Pages

- A cover page
- A signature page
- Acknowledgments
- Abstract
- Table of Content
- List of Tables
- List of Figures

Chapter One: Introduction

Introduction
Statement of Problem
Underpinning Theory and Concept
Purpose of the Study
Research Questions
Plan of the Research
Contribution of the Research
Limitations of the Research
Summary

Chapter Two: Literature Review

Introduction
The Theory and Concepts
Summary

Chapter Three: Methodology

Introduction
The Research Method of the Study
The Reason for Using This Research Method
Research Design
Proposed Basic Framework
Variable Definitions
Hypothesis
Unit of Analysis
Data Collection
Method of Analysis
Summary

Chapter Four: Research Results

Introduction
Discussion of the Results
Summary

Chapter Five: Discussions and Conclusions

Further Discussion and Conclusions
Future studies

References

Appendix (questionnaire)