



Research Requirements:

Thesis or Non-Thesis Path

- Missouri State University graduate degrees require experience in research
- The research requirement is generally met in one of two ways:
 - Thesis
 - Degree/Seminar Paper

Research-Program Specifics

- Some programs require the thesis option
 - Credit varies from 3 to 6 hours
- Other programs suggest the seminar/degree paper
 - Often the seminar/degree paper is completed by a specific class enrollment
 - In other cases, the paper is not linked to a single, specific course
 - A seminar report form, (submitted to the grad college) is required for some programs, check with your departments
 - You have a choice (if your program offers both)
 - Look at your program's other requirements
 - Consult with your advisor
 - Consider your long-range goals

Thesis versus Seminar Paper:

- No simple research set of criteria distinguishes between the two options
- The only absolute differences are that a thesis:
 - Requires a 3 person (minimum) faculty committee (all must be graduate faculty)
 - A thesis has a final review by the Graduate College and is placed on file in the library
 - Course enrollment is in a 799 number

Thesis Option Generalizations:

- Typically the thesis requires collection of original data, expression of original analyses, and/or presentation of creative work
- In many disciplines there are financial costs associated with thesis research
- A written thesis must meet the requirements of both your committee and the Graduate College
- Some elements have a required format, a thesis guide is available at:
 - <https://graduate.missouristate.edu/currentstudents/ThesisResources.htm>

Thesis Grading:

- In some departments, thesis grades are not assigned until the final product is complete-since the enrollment often is over several semesters. In these cases, a “Z” grade is assigned prior to completion.
- Some programs use regular grading; others use Pass/Not Pass

Research Funding:

- Students doing a thesis or a seminar paper that has associated expenses can “apply” to the Graduate College for limited financial help on research costs.
- Examples of valid expenses include equipment, expendable supplies, and survey postage.
- Applications are reviewed twice a year (Fall: mid-september and spring: mid-February)
- Apply AFTER you formulate a “research plan”
- Funding is not a fixed amount!
- Funds go to the department to help pay for the student’s research, not directly to the student.

Student Travel Funding:

- Limited travel funding is available for students accepted to present research findings at professional state/regional/national conferences.
- A formal application needs to be submitted to the Graduate College at least 2 weeks prior to travel.
- Travel funding awards for are transferred directly to the student’s department.
- Students who receive travel funding are expected to present at the annual Interdisciplinary Research Forum (IDF).

GEN 798- Active in Research:

- Zero credit hour course (\$75)
- For those students with only their research requirement remaining to be completed
- Provides the following:
 - Access to the library
 - Opportunity to purchase a parking pass
 - Access to computer services, including e-mail
 - Access to Taylor Health Center services
 - Graded as “P” or “N”
 - Register online like any other course