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<p>MFA Written Component: Thesis and Non-thesis options</p>	<p>All M.F.A. candidates produce a written component as part of the requirements of the degree. The student's graduate committee will determine whether the written component is to be a formal thesis or a non-thesis.</p> <p>The formal thesis is a scholarly research project on the objectives, theoretical context, and/or historical and cultural points of reference of the M.F.A. work. Candidates writing a formal thesis must register for six hours of A&D 698 (Research MFA Thesis) in addition to the 60 hours required for the M.F.A. They must also adhere to the Graduate School thesis requirements.</p> <p>The non-thesis written component might be a process paper, a research paper, or other written creative endeavor, such as an artist book. Candidates not required to write a formal thesis are also not required to take research hours in addition to the 60 hours required for the M.F.A.</p> <p><i>The written component (whether thesis or non-thesis) does NOT constitute nor substitute for the exhibition of the final body of work.</i></p>
<p>Graduate School Thesis Requirements</p>	<p>The Graduate School has specific guidelines regarding title page format, margin requirements, order of sections, page numbering, etc.</p> <p>If you do not meet these requirements, the Graduate School will not accept your thesis and you will not complete your degree.</p> <p>For Graduate School Thesis Office workshops, guidelines, and checklists go to: http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/index.html</p>
<p>Thesis Appointment</p>	<p>The last Friday of exam week is the last date to submit the MFA thesis via Electronic Thesis Deposit (ETD) with the Graduate School.</p> <p>You MUST make an appointment to deposit your thesis online at: purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/appointment</p> <p>Initiate Electronic Thesis Acceptance Form (ETAF)</p> <p>ONE (1) copy delivered via Electronic Thesis Delivery (ETD) to the Graduate School.</p>

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Department Thesis Checker	<p>Make an appointment with the Department of Art and Design thesis checker well in advance of the Graduate School due date, <u>but no later than 3 weeks prior to your oral exam.</u></p> <p>The A&D Department thesis checker will check for formatting errors, if any, but does NOT guarantee that the Graduate School will accept the thesis.</p> <p>The A&D Department thesis checker is not responsible for content, grammatical or typographical errors.</p>
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Suggested **STRUCTURE and KEY COMPONENTS for Department of Art and Design MFA Thesis**

All decisions regarding content and specific components of your thesis are to be determined in discussion with your graduate committee. The following is provided as a possible structure only, not as rules.

Main criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ originality of research ▪ significance of contribution to knowledge/practice in art & design discipline 										
<p>Text Length</p> <p>*Text does NOT include title page, table of contents, appendices, bibliography, etc</p>	<p>MFA Project-based Thesis: approximately 15 (fifteen) pages Research-based Thesis: approximately 50 (fifty) pages</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Title page</td> <td style="width: 50%;">6. List of Figures (if any)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Dedication (optional)</td> <td>7. Abstract</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Acknowledgments</td> <td>8. TEXT* (15-50 pages)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Table of Contents</td> <td>9. Bibliography</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. List of Tables (if any)</td> <td>10. Appendices</td> </tr> </table>	1. Title page	6. List of Figures (if any)	2. Dedication (optional)	7. Abstract	3. Acknowledgments	8. TEXT* (15-50 pages)	4. Table of Contents	9. Bibliography	5. List of Tables (if any)	10. Appendices
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Department of Art and Design approved style format	<p>APA <i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i>, 6th ed. https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/</p>										

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RESEARCH-BASED THESIS (independent of MFA Exhibition Project)	MFA EXHIBITION PROJECT THESIS (related to MFA Exhibition Project)
Abstract (max 350 words)	Abstract (max 350 words)
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State research proposition/argument • Discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background (how, why, what) Objectives Significance 	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFA Project proposal • Discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background (how, why, what) Objectives Significance
Contextual/Literature review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe structure and scope of the review • Critical review of key references in relation to argument • Demonstrate gap in knowledge • Position your research 	Contextual/Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite work of others (cite references and use illustrations where appropriate) who work/have worked in a similar genre or whose work has inspired/informed your work. • Locate your work in terms of historical and theoretical bases and contexts
Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite rationale for methodological approach • Describe use of methods for generating/gathering and analyzing data/information 	Methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite methods for gathering and generating information relevant to project • Document development of new (or improvement of existing) techniques/processes if applicable.
Outcomes and analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe outcomes from application of methods • Give critical evaluation of methods • Analyze and interpret outcomes 	Production and analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe completed work both verbally and visually. • Document process and technique • Evaluate, analyze and interpret finished work
Conclusions Discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which objectives have been fulfilled • Contribution to discipline • Conclusions • Strengths and limitations of the research • Relationship of new knowledge to existing research • Directions for future research • Summary of thesis 	Conclusions Discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which objectives have been fulfilled • Contribution to discipline • Conclusions • Strengths and limitations of the project • Relationship of new knowledge to existing research • Directions for future research • Summary of thesis
Appendices (optional)	Appendices (required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of works in MFA exhibition (title, date, dimension, medium) • Printed visual documentation of works in MFA exhibition

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GRADUATE SCHOOL THESIS Deadlines

For further details, go to: <http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/about/calendar/deadlines.html>

For checklist for Master's Theses: <http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/thesis/x-deposit-checklist.pdf>

**Two Weeks before
Oral Exam**

Last date for Graduate School to **receive** Form GS-8, Request for Appointment of Examining Committee. (Graduate secretary will initiate electronic form) OR initiate through MyPurdue's **Academics** tab.

Friday before deadweek

Last date for students to pass the final examination (GS-7)

Friday before deadweek

Last date for Graduate School to receive final examination report (GS-7)

Friday of deadweek

Last date to submit MFA thesis via Electronic Thesis Deposit (ETD) with the Graduate School. Go to the following link for filing instructions:

Make an appointment to deposit thesis online at:

<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/appointment-booking/index.html>

<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/process.html>

WARNING: DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DEADLINE TO MAKE APPOINTMENT. If the Graduate School finds that your thesis does not meet formatting requirements, your graduation date may be delayed.

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<p>REQUIRED VERSIONS OF THESIS</p> <p>DEADLINE: Friday of deadweek</p>	<p>Regardless of whether you are writing a formal thesis or a non-thesis writing component, must provide the following:</p> <p>ONE (1) archival thesis-bound copy of your written component, whether thesis or non-thesis OR ONE (1) copy of your self-published book (alternative format)</p> <p>ONE (1) non-archival spiral-bound copy of your written component, whether thesis or non-thesis OR ONE (1) copy of your self-published book (alternative format)</p> <p>ONE (1) electronic version (CD or DVD) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written Component (thesis or non-thesis) Artist or Design Exhibition Statement 20 color images* (minimum) of MFA exhibition work with no more than 4 details if only 20 images are provided Catalog or Checklist of work in exhibition Additional images* of exhibit installation Optional: other visual work* (pertinent to, but not included in exhibition) <p>ONE (1) copy of postcard, announcement, or other exhibition publicity</p> <p>ONE (1) archival thesis-bound copy of your written component, whether thesis or non-thesis, for your committee chair</p> <p>ONE (1) archival thesis-bound copy of your written component for yourself</p>
<p>*Archival and non-archival guidelines</p>	<p>Archival requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% cotton rag paper 20# weight, minimum Thesis binding (Thesis Binding, similar to a hard cover book, consists of 3 metal screw posts holding the cover, contents, and spine together.) <p>Non-archival requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular office paper Coil binding Clear plastic cover Black plastic back cover