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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>Department Thesis Checker</p>	<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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Thesis Deposit	<p>The Graduate School sets the is the deadline (usually during Quiet Week) to submit the MFA thesis via Electronic Thesis Deposit (ETD).</p> <p>You MUST follow instructions at below page to deposit your thesis online at: https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/requirements.html</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate Electronic Thesis Acceptance Form (ETAF) after your final defense and at least 2-3 business days before deadline. 2. Once ETAF is approved, you will receive an email with instructions on how to submit digital thesis to Hammer Research Repository. This must be done 24 hours in advance of the Deposit Deadline. 3. Pay deposit fee of \$90.
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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> <p>Use the Graduate School Thesis APA Word template for your thesis: http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html</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: <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/about/calendar/>

More thesis resources: <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/index.html>

Two Weeks before Oral Exam/Defense

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 Quiet Week

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

Friday before Quiet Week

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

During Quiet Week

Last date to submit MFA thesis via Electronic Thesis Deposit (ETD) with the Graduate School.

See this page for filing instructions:

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/requirements.html>

WARNING: DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DEADLINE TO START THE ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT PROCESS. If the Graduate School finds that Your thesis does not meet formatting requirements, your graduation May be delayed.

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<p>REQUIRED VERSIONS OF THESIS</p> <p>DEADLINE: Friday of Quiet Week</p>	<p>Regardless of whether you are writing a formal thesis or a non-thesis writing component, must provide the following:</p> <p>TWO (2) spiral-bound copies of your written component, whether thesis or non-thesis OR TWO (2) copies 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 Statement20 color images* (minimum) of MFA exhibition work with no more than 4 details if only 20 images are providedCatalog or Checklist of work in exhibitionAdditional images* of exhibit installationOptional: 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) spiral-bound copy of your written component, whether thesis or non-thesis, for your committee chair</p> <p>ONE (1) spiral-bound copy of your written component for yourself</p>
<p>* Spiral-bound guidelines</p>	<p>May be purchased at several local copy centers near campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regular office paper OR archival 100% cotton rag paperCoil bindingClear plastic coverBlack plastic back cover