



Thesis Guidelines

An MA thesis should demonstrate ability to do research using secondary sources and, where appropriate, primary sources. The aim is to produce a well-written, convincing defense of a thesis statement.

Students writing an MA thesis will register in MEST 5928 in their third semester and MEST

5299 in their fourth semester of study. Please note the following:

MEST 5298 is not counted as one of the 8 required courses for MA thesis writers.

Thesis course MEST 5299 is registered correctly according to the following policy:

First Registration: MEST 5299-01 for 3 credits hrs.

Second Registration: MEST 5299-01 for 3 credits hrs.

Additional registrations: MEST 5299-02 for 1 credit hr.

MEST 5298 will meet regularly and prepare students to write thesis proposals and provide a forum for presentation of thesis proposals and mutual criticism and feedback.

MEST 5299 consists of individual work on the thesis and meetings with the thesis advisor.

Selection of Committee and Submission of an Abstract:

By October (for thesis to be submitted at the end of spring semester) or May (for thesis to be submitted at the end of fall semester), students should assemble a thesis reading committee and submit a thesis abstract. (all forms are available [online](#))

The committee consists of three faculty members from at least two different departments, one of whom must be a member of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee.

It is the responsibility of the students to make sure that the committee members especially the advisor will be available/ within reach for at least two semesters, to ensure the smooth continuity of research and thesis writing.



Students should submit to their principal advisor a two-three pages abstract specifying the research problem (not only the theme), the state of the basic literature on the subject, the main argument, and the principal concepts, methodologies and bibliographical sources to be used.

A copy of this abstract along with a form including the name of the student's advisor and the two other proposed thesis readers must be submitted to and approved by the MESC secretariat.

The thesis readers proposed by students will indicate their approval of the thesis topic and methodology on a form submitted to the MESC secretariat.

Writing a Proposal

Students will prepare a formal thesis proposal of 10-15 pages to be submitted by the end of the 10th week of the semester in which the thesis is begun. An acceptable thesis proposal contains the following elements:

1. Cover page
2. Title page (with space for readers' approvals)
3. Introduction/statement of the thesis (about 1 page)
4. Questions to be answered in the thesis (normally 2 to 3 pages)
5. Chapter outline (about 1 page)
6. Review of the literature (normally 2 to 3 pages)
7. Sources and methodology (normally 2 to 3 pages)
8. Bibliography (as full as possible)
9. Tentative timetable for research and writing (1 page)

The thesis committee members in consultation with the MESC director will approve the proposal and appropriate comments will be communicated to the student.

With approved extended abstracts and preferably full proposals students can apply for research grants that cover the following expenses:

Supplies, services and cost of data, which must be purchased from external sources.

To assist with publishing expenses such as the costs of reprints, page charges and preparation of manuscripts for publishing.

For application forms, deadlines for applications and further information, contact your department chair or [the Graduate Studies and Research Office](#)

Final Draft

The final draft is produced over the fourth semester; it could take longer than one semester for several reasons. Students should plan and agree with the advisor on a research timeframe.

For general AUC Thesis Academic Requirements and Format; Thesis Style, Thesis Layout, etc. please check the following link:

<https://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/graduate-studies/thesis-guidelines>

A final draft of the thesis (about 100 pages) will be submitted by May (for spring graduation) or November (for Fall graduation).

The advisor will read the thesis and make recommendations for revisions if necessary.

When the advisor deems it acceptable, the other readers will read the thesis. At that point the advisor and student, in consultation with the MESC secretariat, will schedule an oral defense of the thesis.

A note should be sent to the program that the thesis committee has set a defense date.

The defense will consist of a ten minutes presentation of the thesis by the student followed by each member of the committee asking questions, in turn, for up to 15 minutes. Immediately following the oral defense, the committee will convene to vote on the acceptability of the thesis.

Each member of the committee will submit a written evaluation of the thesis explaining his/her decision to accept or reject the work. In the case of a disagreement among the readers about the acceptability of the thesis, the MESC director will meet with the readers for a discussion and final decision.

The committee members have to sign the defense form and the thesis signature page. In some cases, the committee members might ask students to incorporate further corrections/enhancements to the thesis before they agree to sign.

Deadline for submission of the approved/defended final version of the thesis to MESC Director is two weeks prior to the deadline to submit the thesis to the Dean's office. If the thesis is submitted late, the degree will not be conferred that semester.

Two copies have to be submitted to MESC secretariat; one loose copy for the Library use and one bounded for the Office.



The thesis signature page is approved by the Program Director and is sent to the Dean for his/her approval along with the Library copy. Students can submit as many master copies of the signature page as needed for future use.