

Announcement for Campus: New process for thesis reviews by the Graduate College

The Graduate College is changing its process for reviewing theses. **If you are a faculty member working with thesis students, or a graduate student working on a thesis, you need to be aware of these changes.** An ad-hoc faculty committee provided guidance for what the new process would include, based on two related concerns:

- The faculty on campus want more time at the end of each semester to work with students to complete their theses, rather than a deadline 3-weeks prior to commencement.
- The Graduate College can no longer devote significant resources to extensive reviews of thesis formatting; however, it is critical to ensure the quality of these academic works.

In addition to the existing Graduate College's Thesis Guide and the required Thesis Template, two new resources are now available to thesis students and their advisors to assist with formatting:

- A series of tutorials (videos and associated quizzes) are posted on the "Thesis" Blackboard class. Anyone can self-enroll and use them. Instructions for self-enrolling are on the Thesis Resources section of the Graduate College webpage. (<https://graduate.missouristate.edu/currentstudents/ThesisResources.htm>).
- The Writing Center in the Bear CLAW (Meyer Library) has trained writing consultants specifically to help thesis students identify formatting issues in their theses (<https://writingcenter.missouristate.edu/309139.htm>). Students can schedule specific sessions devoted to thesis formatting.

Effective immediately, students will get an automatic one week extension for submitting their theses to the Graduate College for review if they can document that they have taken advantage of both these new resources. This includes successfully passing all relevant tutorials (estimated 2-3 hours), and at least one thesis-formatting session at the Writing Center (scheduled 2 hours). Instructions for providing documentation are provided in the Thesis Blackboard class. In the future, it is anticipated that the use of these two resources will become mandatory and the Graduate College deadline will be later in the semester, rather than an extension being given.

NOTE: *The new process of reviewing a thesis will place more responsibility on the student and advisor to ensure formatting is done accurately. However, there will be more time each semester to work on the thesis. The Graduate College review will be less exhaustive, but if a thesis is found to be significantly out of compliance with the format requirements it will be rejected, and that student's graduation will be delayed a semester.*