

# Requirements for Non-Thesis Master's Degree in Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences

Department of Ocean Engineering and Marine Sciences

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The OEMS non-thesis degree requirements include an additional two courses in lieu of a thesis (for a total of 30 postgraduate credit-hours), a report that constitutes the written component of the final program examination, an oral examination based on the report, and an oral public presentation.

The written report should demonstrate competence and scientific literacy in a relevant area of interest to the student, with the subject matter approved by the advisor. To fulfill this requirement, the student should produce a manuscript that contains the following components.

- Introduction with thorough literature review.
  - Background/purpose/concepts/objectives.
- Methodology.
  - Description of tools used.
  - Relevant calculations, equations, etc.
- Results.
  - Results of preliminary research.
- Discussion.
- Conclusion.
- References.

As the primary component of the report, the literature review should demonstrate a breadth of knowledge in the chosen topic-area. The research component should be limited and should investigate a relevant problem, utilize appropriate tools (e.g., data-visualization software and processing) and/or involve some algorithm development (i.e., computer programming). In addition to summarizing the findings, the discussion should include ideas for extending the scope of the project.

## Timeline for Non-Thesis Master's Degree:

In the first month, two semesters before graduation, the student should do the following.

- Schedule a committee meeting and present the report topic, abstract, and outline;
- Petition to graduate.
- Carefully read bottom of letter from the Registrar in response to the Petition to Graduate<sup>1</sup>.

During the semester in which the student expects to graduate, the student should do the following.

- Present a draft of the report to her/his advisor at least six weeks before the end of the semester.

<sup>1</sup> The bottom portion of the Registrar's letter lists any deficiencies, such as required courses that have not been taken, warning of low GPA, notice of a grade change, and other miscellaneous items that need to be addressed prior to graduation.

- Schedule an oral examination.
- Send a draft report approved by the advisor to the entire committee at least four weeks in advance of the oral examination.
- Submit an Oral Examination Announcement form to the Office of Graduate Programs at least two weeks in advance of the examination date.
- Take the oral examination, if approved to do so by the committee based on the written report.
- Ensure that the ‘Oral/Written Examination Report’ is signed by all committee members at the defense and submitted to Graduate Programs Office by the Department.
- Present the results of the work at the graduate-student seminar. Attendance at the seminar is required of all DOEMS graduate students. To fulfill this requirement, the student is required to prepare a 15-minute presentation that contains the following elements.
  - A statement of the relevance of the topic.
  - A brief overview of previous work in the researched area, with references as appropriate.
  - A succinct presentation of methods, tools applied, etc.
  - A description of research highlights.
  - A brief discussion, including issues and problems encountered, as well as future work.
  - A few minutes at the end for questions.

Questions, problems, or issues that cannot be addressed by the advisor should be referred to the Program Chairs or the Department Head.