

**Graduate Degree – 700 Course Option  
Research/Thesis – 6 Credits**

Graduate students using the research/thesis option will develop, implement, and assess a research project and write a 5 chapter thesis to present their research results. Below is a description of the processes which will be used for students using the research/thesis option for the 700 course requirements.

**1. Research/Project/Thesis Development**

- A. The graduate student will work with the graduate committee chair to develop the research proposal and to identify the requirements for each chapter of the thesis.
- B. The graduate student will conduct the research project and present the research results in the format required by the graduate committee for the thesis.

**2. Thesis Presentation/Defense Appointment**

The graduate student will submit the completed thesis to the graduate committee two weeks prior to the oral defense appointment.

- A. **Presentation for the Defense Appointment**  
The graduate student has 40 to 60 minutes to present her/his thesis. Some students use a powerpoint presentation to introduce and summarize the thesis work.
- B. **Defense Questions**  
The graduate committee will ask the graduate student questions about her/his thesis for 20 to 30 minutes.
- C. **Graduate Committee Vote**  
Following the thesis presentation and the question/answer question, the committee will ask the graduate student to leave the room. While the graduate student is out of the room, the committee will decide whether or not they believe the graduate student has met the expectations for the graduate degree. Those students which have met the degree expectations, will receive a yes vote. Those students, which have a deficiency, will receive a no vote or a conditional vote. Students receiving a conditional vote will be given directions and a time frame for improving their application for the graduate degree.
- D. The thesis document becomes the property of the FCS Department