UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
GRADUATE PROGRAM

THESIS OPTION A: SW 797

MSW students are required to demonstrate their mastery of advanced generalist practice behaviors and associated practice behaviors through either the completion of a these (Option A) or the Integrative Project (Option B). ***The thesis is an option suggested for students committed to a) developing a particular area of social work research and b) working autonomously under the direction of a thesis committee***. It builds on strong research skills and *requires significant commitment and work during the year preceding the final year of study*. *Students choosing this option should enroll in SW 797 (3 credits) fall semester and SW 797 (3 credits) spring semester of their final year.*

If you are interested in applying for ***Thesis* Option** you should:

1. During ***Fall Semester*** in the year preceding your final year,
   Identify a research area of that is of abiding interest and begin to search the literature for prior research and gaps in knowledge.

2. During ***Spring Semester*** in the year preceding your final year, discuss your research plans with a faculty member who can help you decide if the option is a good one for you.

3. If you decide to pursue the thesis option, you will need to identify a faculty member within the School of Social Work who is willing to serve as Chair of your thesis committee.

4. Develop a 2-3 page "Preliminary Thesis Proposal" that you submit to the MSW Program Coordinator for approval.

5. Once the "Preliminary Thesis Proposal" has been approved, select the second and third members of your AE Committee in consultation with your Chair.

6. Submit the "Notice of Intent to Select Thesis Option," to your thesis committee Chair <u>and</u> the MSW Program Coordinator by ***May 1***

7. Over the summer work independently to develop a systematic literature review and a focused research question

8. Over the summer consult with a staff member from the UNR Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects to review ethical considerations related to the study. Before this meeting you will provide the IRB staff member with a written summary of the proposed research project.

9. During the ***week preceding the start of fall semester classes***, you will submit to your AE Committee the following, and schedule a full committee meeting to discuss the viability of the project. The committee will make a final determination on moving forward with the project.
   - A thorough literature review and focused research question

- A draft of the methodology
- Evidence of IRB consultation

10. If you go forward with the thesis, you will need to enroll in SW 797 (3 credits) in both the fall and spring semesters. If you *decide not to go forward with the thesis*, you will enroll in SW 790 Integrative Project Seminar.

11. Thesis students present a thesis defense during the **April Presentation Week.** Your presentation time will be scheduled at the beginning of the spring semester, at the same time that the Integrative Project presentations are scheduled.

Students should read and follow the "Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines" regarding the preparation of a thesis. These guidelines can be found online at:
http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/docs/9Dissertation%20and%20Thesis%20Format%20Instructionsrev09.pdf

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Notice of Intent to Select Thesis Option

Please return to your Thesis Committee Chair and the MSW Program Coordinator by May 1st.

Name:_____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Working Title for Proposal:

_____

_____

Attach a 2-3 page "Preliminary Thesis Proposal" which includes:

1. a brief problem statement including the research question
2. brief summary of the literature
3. proposed methodology
4. certificate of completion of Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) offered through the UNR Office of Human Research Protection (https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp)

Advisory Examining Committee signatures:

Chair_____

Second member, within Social Work_____

Third member, outside Social Work_____

Student:_____

MSW Program Coordinator: _____

Revised February, 2013