GRADUATE THESIS RESEARCH TIPS

TIP #1
Add all important dates to your calendar. Discuss due dates with your advisor and thesis committee.

TIP #2
Find the best topic! It needs to be the right size, not too big, too narrow, but just right for you to research and write a literature review. Your advisor, library staff, and thesis coaches can help. Find selected contact information below.

TIP #3
Before you get too into your research, choose a citation management tool such as Zotero or Mendeley. This will help you store, organize, refer to, quote from, and cite your sources.

TIP #4
Before you begin writing your thesis, fully review the Graduate Education Master’s Thesis Formatting Guidelines. Familiarizing yourself with the guidelines before you begin compiling your research will make the thesis formatting review process much easier once you have a complete document.

TIP #5
Schedule your thesis defense AT LEAST three weeks before the end of the quarter in which you are graduating. All content edits must be completed before your thesis is submitted to Digital Commons. As these edits can take time, it’s important to leave yourself enough time to create the most polished thesis possible!

TIP #6
When you’re ready to submit, review the entire Master’s Thesis Submission Process at the Graduate Education website to ensure that all requirements are completed before you graduate.

TIP #7
It is never too early to assemble your thesis committee! Begin working with your chosen Thesis Advisor as soon as you can, and reach out to other possible committee members once you have narrowed down your thesis topic.

TIP #8
START NOW! Producing your thesis is a process. Developing your topic, searching the literature, reading the literature, synthesizing the information and writing the thesis all take time. Your brain needs time to process and understand all this information, so make sure you give it ample time to do this important work. So, plan your time wisely! Inevitably, something will happen that will throw you off track. Whatever it is, it will be easier to recover if you have a plan in place. So even if it’s a preliminary plan with a few baby steps and a calendar, start planning for success now!

CONTACTS

ERIKA ROGERS
Thesis Coaching available Fall-Spring
coach@erogersphd.com
(805) 550-9781
http://grad.calpoly.edu/resources/thesis-clinic.html

ROBERT E. KENNEDY LIBRARY
Research help: find a topic, start a literature review, manage citations, and visualize data
Get help anytime: http://lib.calpoly.edu/help-and-support/get-help/
http://lib.calpoly.edu/

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