

CALIFORNIA

The project can further be described as:

- x Oriented toward practice or application
- x Consisting of two parts—a product and a written narrative of three to four chapters (alternative structures may be negotiated with the project committee chair)

Both theses and projects may potentially be of publishable quality. They may be of benefit to students planning doctoral study.

GETTING STARTED

Students who are considering the thesis or project option should approach their program advisors with ideas as early as possible to begin the process. Advisors can direct students towards instructors, literature sources, and topical courses that are in line with students' research interests. When appropriate, students and instructors may discuss tailoring course assignments to align with students' intended thesis or project topics.

As students commit to the thesis or project option, they should:

- x Pay attention to the research design of studies they read for courses or reading recommendations by their advisors and
- x Read filed theses or projects in the University Library to get a sense of the scope of these culminating experiences.

SELECTING A CHAIR AND FORMING A COMMITTEE

Thesis and project committees consist of a chair and two other committee members. As stated in the [University Catalog](#), the chair of the thesis/project committee must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member from a department authorized to offer a graduate degree. Additionally, the College of Education requires the thesis/project chair to be a faculty member in one of the departments in the college. The chair and the student collaboratively determine the structure of the committee, which includes two full-time faculty members, at least one of whom must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member at CSULB. The third member may be a faculty member from another CSULB program or another university, a school principal, or other professional with relevant expertise. All members must hold at least a master's degree. The thesis committee must be approved by the thesis chair, the department chair, and the Associate Dean.

Next, for theses, students collect data if applicable, conduct analyses and write Chapters 4 and 5. The process for a project is similar and includes creation of the project product and final chapter(s).

The Writing Process

The process of writing and revision is time intensive. Students engaged in theses or projects should create a schedule for submission and return of documents with their committee chair and committee member and submit chapters as early as possible and by agreed upon deadlines. As the nature of the relationship between the student and chair solidifies, the tone for the committee as a whole is set with respect to submitting drafts, including the amount of text submitted at any one time.

In most cases, students develop initial drafts in consultation with the chair. Following revisions of the chapters and upon the chair's approval, the chapter drafts may go forward to the rest of the committee for comments, leading to another round of revisions. Students should expect that the review process will take several weeks for each iteration and that multiple drafts of each chapter will be required. Students are responsible for submitting their best work at each point and for providing text

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before the end of that session and that the Dean of the College of Education will need at least two weeks to review the final document that has been approved by the committee before it may be submitted to the University Thesis and Dissertation Office

To conclude the [submission process](#), students submit an [electronic signature request](#) to the University Thesis and Dissertation Office. All committee members and the Dean must electronically sign. A payment is required at time of submission. Check the [Thesis and Dissertation Office](#) for specific amount. After payment is received, students receive instructions [itopro4 \(ta\)d\(\)](#)