

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | LAW CENTER

MASTERS THESIS COURSE PETITION

Thesis advisor must approve thesis topic, committee, and narrative/outline. The Student Services Office administratively registers a student for the course upon submission of the completed petition.

Student _____ PeopleSoft _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Course No. _____ Section _____ Semester/Year _____ No. Of Credits _____

I hereby request approval of the following research topic and schedule for submission of my thesis. (*Print* title and attach a one or two-page narrative or outline of the proposed topic.)

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

(1) Primary Thesis Advisor (name): _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Comments _____

(2) Committee Members:

Name/Signature/Date

Name/Signature/Date

(The signature of two other committee members indicates their agreement to participate on the student's research committee. Grade assigned by primary thesis advisor.)

PROCEDURE

- Return completed form to LL.M. office. **Student should retain a copy of the completed form.**
- Students should meet with their thesis advisor to confirm dates for submission of the following:
 - Outline w/authorities
 - First Draft
 - Final Draft
- The final draft should be submitted not later than the last day of classes of the semester in which the Masters Thesis course is taken.
- Confirm submission format (electronic or printed, bound or unbound copy) with committee chair and committee members.
- Submit an unbound copy of final draft to Graduate Legal Studies Office. Copy will be sent to Law Center Library for binding and cataloging. Students can submit a second unbound copy which will also be bound and returned to the student for their personal use.

THESIS TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The thesis should be:
 - Double spaced
 - Typewritten or computer-generated
 - 12 point font
 - One-inch margins
 - Letter-size paper (8 ½" x 11")
 - In a protective cover
2. It should have a title page including: the title of the paper, student's name, date submitted (month and year), the type of degree sought (LL.M. and area), the name of the degree-granting institution (University of Houston Law Center), and the names of the three committee members (specifying the principal advisor).
3. Following the title page, there should be a one-page abstract (summary description) of the thesis.
4. There should be a table of contents on a separate page following the abstract.
5. The minimum length for the text of the thesis is 50 page of text, exclusive of footnotes.

Overall, the thesis should present a relatively original idea or ideas, should demonstrate mastery of research skills appropriate to the field, and should be analytical and/or critical, as opposed to merely descriptive and of publishable quality.