

only on the written request of the student and his department or school adviser and with the approval of the Dean, School of Graduate Studies. Forms for requesting such program adjustment are available in the Office of the School of Graduate Studies.

THESIS, PROJECT, AND THESIS ALTERNATIVE

Most master's degree curricula at CSU, Fresno require the preparation of a thesis or a project. Some departments permit thesis alternatives. (See *Graduate Bulletin* for definition and standards of thesis, project, and thesis alternative and instructions for microfilming.)

1. To be eligible to enroll for thesis or project (299), a student must have
 - (a) been advanced to candidacy for the master's degree.
 - (b) maintained a B (3.0) average on his approved program.
 - (c) completed at least six units of his approved program on the Fresno campus.
 - (d) completed any course in research techniques required by his major department.
 - (e) secured a thesis committee, consisting of a chairman and at least two other members.
 - (f) secured approval of his thesis plan from the division or department graduate committee and filed in the Office of the School of Graduate Studies, an official thesis committee assignment.

If it is impossible to meet one or more of these requirements before the semester or summer session of thesis registration, the student must submit to the Office of the School of Graduate Studies, prior to the close of late registration, a recommendation from the department that special permission to register for thesis be granted.

2. Registration for thesis may be processed during either the regular or late registration periods of any semester after the requirements listed in (a) through (f) above have been met or special permission for exceptions has been granted. If, however, a student fails to enroll within one semester (excluding summer sessions) after his official acceptance by a thesis committee, the committee chairman has the option of dissolving the committee, in which case a new committee must be appointed before registration can be processed. A student planning to register for thesis after a break in regular session attendance must be readmitted to the university. (See *General Information—Registration*.)
3. A student whose thesis work is planned to extend over more than the semester in which he first enrolls may select one of the following options (with the approval of his graduate advisor): (a) he may register in 299 each term he is working on the thesis with the number of units for each registration reduced so that the total number of units accumulated in 299 does not exceed the limit set by the department; (b) he may register for the total number of units of 299 in one semester and complete his work in subsequent semesters under Graduate Studies 299, a zero-unit course required for enrollment purposes; (c) option (a) supplemented by GS 299 when the maximum number of units is attained with the thesis still incomplete. (See *Special Programs—Graduate Studies*.)
4. If work in 299 is not completed at the end of the term of registration, but is progressing satisfactorily, an SP (Satisfactory Progress) grade is recorded. Such a grade must be replaced within two years by a letter grade or a CR-NC grade. Exceptions to the two-year limit may be made by appropriate campus authorities only upon evidence of extenuating circumstances.
5. The student and his thesis chairman should set a deadline for the completion of the semifinal draft, no later than seven weeks before the last day of scheduled final examinations. This date should be early enough so that the chairman and the other members of the committee can clear the draft before the student must meet the deadline for clearance by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.
6. Before a thesis is officially accepted by the graduate school, it must meet Graduate School criteria on matters of format, documentation, and quality of writing. The semifinal draft, initialed by the thesis chairman as acceptable and ready for final typing should be submitted to the Office of the School of Graduate Studies at least six weeks before the last day of scheduled final examinations. This deadline has been set as late as possible in the semester to accommodate the student; late manuscripts will be accepted, but the student runs the risk of a delay in the granting of the degree. Students are urged to follow meticulously Specifications and Instructions for the Master's Thesis or Project; copies are available in the Office of the School of Graduate Studies.