

MA Final Project Guidelines

Description

The MA final project is meant to be a summative work that showcases what students have learned in their master's program and how they apply this learning to their teaching practice or educational setting. Projects can vary from traditional research papers (e.g., action research projects, case studies, literature reviews, classroom-based research, book studies) to curriculum (re)designs, arts-based/multimodal projects, multimedia community initiatives, and other innovative works. For more details on the types of projects, what they might include, and some example abstracts click [HERE](#).

Students should work closely with their advisors to create a project plan that fits their interests and needs. Together students and their advisor should establish project goals and outcomes and set a timeline. Students should keep UNL Graduate Studies' [final semester deadlines](#) in mind as they plan.

Following are suggested criteria for the creation and evaluation of MA final projects, and you talk with your advisor to set evaluation criteria.

Guiding Criteria for Project Creation and Evaluation

Depth of Inquiry: The project explores/investigates the project topic with depth representative of graduate level work.

Summative Nature: The project is a program-ending summative work that encompasses key learning from throughout the students' master's degree program.

Connection to Relevant Research: The project makes connections to recent, relevant educational research and scholarship.

Connection to Practice: The project connects to candidate's current or future educational / professional practice.

Recommendations

- Students should complete the summative project in the last semester(s) of your program.
- Before their final semester, students should review the [MA Milestones](#) and make note of deadlines to graduate.
- Students should meet with their advisor early and frequently during the summative project process.

- Completion of this project typically involves multiple drafts, and multiple meetings with one's advisor.
- Length of the summative project can vary greatly depending upon topic and format.
- Research writing conventions are expected ([APA Guidelines latest Edition](#)).
- Policies for student use of generative AI should be explicitly stated / negotiated prior to beginning the work of the project.

Timeline

- Students should keep track of [MA Milestones](#) and deadlines for paperwork submission to Graduate Studies.
- The semester before anticipated graduation, students should meet with their advisor to discuss their ideas/possibilities for their project.
- The final project is often completed in one semester; however, it may take multiple semesters, depending on the topic and format of the project.