

PPPM Graduate Thesis / Exit Project Process Tip Sheet for Students

Spring Term Year 1

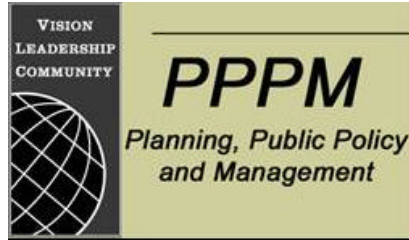
- Register for 1 credit of colloquium
- Begin reading general articles and scanning practitioner, government, or advocacy web sites that are connected to your general interest area. This will give you a sense of what the sub-topics of your interest area are. For example, if you are interested in biking and walking issues, visit the web site of the National Center on Biking and Walking (<http://www.bikewalk.org/>) to see the varied types of research reports written on the subject.
- Register for 2 credits of colloquium for the following Fall.

Summer

- Read!!!! There is nothing that can help you refine and develop an appropriate research question like reading research papers related to your general interest area.
- When reading *scholarly* papers, try to identify: questions asked, methods used in the research, and the conclusions reached.
- Write these answers in a working document in order to help organize your thoughts on these articles and to remember what the articles you read are about
- Using bibliographic software like Endnote can be really helpful for this organization

Fall Term Year 2

- Be sure you have registered for and are taking 2 credits of colloquium this term.
- Early in the term (if you have not done so previously) identify a committee chair. This faculty advisor can help you narrow your research question further and can help point you to appropriate literature and authors you should be reading. Your committee chair can help you identify other committee members. (Note that your academic advisor and committee chair can be different people.)
- It is expected that students (mostly) complete their first three thesis/project chapters (Introduction, Literature Review, Methods).
- Literature review and Methods chapters are due to the colloquium instructor during this term, but should also be turned in to your committee chair/committee at the same time. The colloquium instructor will not give you specific feedback on your content area, which is the job of your committee. The earlier you can turn in completed chapter drafts, the smoother your overall research project will go.
- At the end of the term, students should be sufficiently prepared to engage in data collection and analysis during the subsequent Winter term.



Visual Overview of Course Sequencing and Flow
 PPPM Graduate Thesis / Exit Project Process

	Spring Colloquium		Fall Colloquium		Winter	Spring	
	<i>Midterm</i>	<i>Final</i>	<i>Midterm</i>	<i>Final</i>		<i>Midterm</i>	<i>Final</i>
Product Due	Research Question	Lit. Review	Methods	1 st 3 chapters	data gathering/ analysis	1st draft (April 25)	Defense (mid-late May)
New Offerings	How to workshops A B C D E F						
Credits	Colloquium (1)		Colloquium (2) Thesis/Project (2/3)		Thesis/Project (2/3)	Thesis/Project (2/3)	
Supervisor	Instructor of class			Individual Faculty Advisor on lit review	Individual Advisor and committee	Individual Advisor and committee	
Transition of Labor	Course Instructor				Advisor		