Master’s Thesis Curriculum

All MS students are initially accepted as non-thesis students. Those wishing to write a thesis are strongly encouraged to enroll in ESS 7102 as well as ESS 5830 their first semester. During your first semester you should connect with a mentor to begin the process of delineating a thesis topic. Once your mentor and topic have been determined and a timeline agreed upon your classification will be switched to thesis.

Students selecting the thesis option will be required to complete a minimum of 37 credit hours, including 18 hours of content courses and 19 hours of research. In addition, the student is required to secure a mentor, form an advisory committee, write a thesis proposal, successfully present their thesis proposal in Graduate Seminar, conduct their research, successfully orally defend the findings of their thesis to their advisory committee, and submit a final thesis document to the Graduate School and Department.

The following courses are required. See mentor for any additional coursework you might require.

Content courses (18 credit hours):
6700:  Introduction to Sport Psychology (first fall)
6730:  Applied Sport Psychology (first spring)
6750:  Motivation Theory
6751:  Character Development
6760:  Sociology of Sport
6780:  Psychology of Injury

Research courses (minimum of 19 credit hours):
5830:  Journal Readings (attend every semester; enroll in when possible)
7102:  Research Methods (first fall)
7103:  Design and Analysis I (first spring)
7104:  Design and Analysis II (second fall)
6970:  Thesis Research (6 total credit hours)
7850:  Graduate Seminar (taken the semester you plan on proposing your thesis)
6951:  Independent Study (see mentor; taken to prepare your proposal)
Please follow the process outlined below, relative to the Master’s thesis, to ensure a timely graduation.

**At the beginning of second semester:
✓ Student should have an advisory committee formed (mentor plus two members).
✓ Student should be in communication with mentor regarding thesis topic.

**During second semester
✓ Student should be conversing with mentor and meeting with advisory committee.
✓ Student should be writing a review of literature.
✓ Student should be constructing their thesis proposal (chapters 1 and 3).
✓ Plan of study and thesis direction should be formalized with advisory committee.

**At the end of second semester or early third semester:
✓ Student should present thesis proposal in Graduate Seminar.
✓ Consider signing up for ESS 7850 (1 cr)

**Year 2:
✓ Thesis research should be conducted.
✓ Chapters 4 and 5 should be written.
✓ Thesis should be orally defended.
✓ Thesis document should be finalized.

Note: Your Master’s thesis advisory committee consists of three members: one faculty mentor member plus 2 additional members. Faculty eligible to mentor your advisory committee include Newton and Podlog. Miller and LaReaux may serve on your advisory committee.