

# Guidelines for completing a Masters Thesis in Dr. Mason's lab

## Thesis Requirements

This document defines the requirements for completing a Thesis Option Masters degree with Dr. Mason as a thesis advisor. Failure to comply with the guidelines established herein could result in delays or even cancellation of your thesis research. It is the responsibility of the student to review, understand, and act on the information provided in this document.

## Documentation Timeline

For timely completion of a Thesis Option MS degree, Dr. Mason requires several documents and presentation to be during the thesis research effort. The table below lists several important documentation/presentation deadlines. Failure to complete these deadlines may result in the delay of the thesis defense.

Document	Due Date [time before thesis defense]
Begin Preliminary Work (no document required)	10 months
Thesis Proposal	8 months
Progress Presentation	6 months
Dissertation Introduction	4 months
Progress Presentation	3 months
Full Dissertation Draft	5 weeks
Final Dissertation	3 weeks
Defense Presentation	2 weeks

Typically, MS students plan for a May graduation (Spring semester) and will begin their thesis research effort during the previous Summer or Spring term. By the beginning of the Fall term, students should have a well-defined thesis topic and have substantial preliminary achievements in the area of their research. MS degrees may be planned for defense in months other than May, but the timeline above still applies.

***Students should never assume that Dr. Mason will provide any financial support for MS projects that go beyond the anticipated thesis defense semester unless arrangements are made before hand.***



Chapter 1							
Dissertation Draft							
Dissertation Final							
Defense Presentation							

\* define using words appropriate for your thesis and add additional tasks and efforts as necessary.

### Summary of Anticipated Results

This section should provide a listing (in table or bullet form) of the following

#### *Scientific Contributions*

List all major contributions resulting from your thesis work. Include contributions to the general scientific community, the university and/or research lab, and society as a whole.

#### *Performance Goals*

State the anticipated features or performance goals of your research effort.

#### *Deliverables*

List all items that will be delivered at the end of your thesis including, design files, hardware/instruments, documents, and journal/conference papers.

### **References**

Include citation for all literature referenced in your proposal using the standard format found in electrical engineering journals. References should be cited in the text of your proposal using the standard number format (e.g., [1]). You may also list additional references that were not directly cited under a subheading called Bibliography.

## **Masters Dissertation**

MS Dissertations for Dr. Mason should follow the established university/departmental rules and should be organized as an extended journal paper. Use highly cited journal papers as references in developing the outline for your dissertation.

### ***Typical Dissertation Outline***

The following sections/chapters would typically be included in an MS dissertation:

#### **Introduction**

overview of project, motivation, background (literature review), objectives, and significance of the research

## **Design Methodology**

detailed background information on the problem to be solved, approach taken to solve the problem, challenges to be overcome

## **Experimental Efforts**

description of the research tasks to complete, tools used, issues encountered, etc.

## **Results**

figures, tables of results, evaluation of success of your design effort and discussion of relevant issues that could not be addressed.

## **Summary and Future Work**

project summary statement and discussion of future work to further progress in the area of your thesis.

## **References**

Citations for all literature referenced in your proposal using the standard format found in electrical engineering journals. References should be cited in the text of your proposal using the standard number format (e.g., [1]).