



**THE PURDUE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE**  
**M.S. GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Assembled by  
the Graduate Faculty  
in the  
Purdue Polytechnic Institute

**PURDUE**  

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**U N I V E R S I T Y**

West Lafayette,

IN August 2019

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# Purdue Polytechnic Institute M.S. Graduate Student Handbook

**NOTE:** This document supersedes the Graduate School Policies & Procedures Guide. Throughout this Graduate Handbook **XXX** refers to the departmental prefix code (e.g., **OLS** 59800, **MET** 59000).

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## FORWARD

This document is intended to clarify and emphasize the expectations that the Polytechnic has relative to the pursuit of graduate studies. If you have questions about how to interpret what is in this Handbook, please consult with your major professor, the Polytechnic Graduate Program Chair, or the Polytechnic Graduate Coordinator.

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## SECTION 1.0. INTRODUCTION

Section 1.0 of this document provides an overview to general information graduate study in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.

### 1.1. General Information

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute (Polytechnic) offers graduate instruction leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The master's degree enables students to concentrate on professional development studies in technology or technology education in any of the disciplinary foci and/or areas of concentration (see table 1) offered by the college. Note that some areas of concentration may include more than one area of disciplinary focus. Both thesis and non-thesis routes are offered through the master's program. The Ph.D. program's primary focus is to prepare faculty, researchers, specialists and administrators for leadership in technological and engineering careers in academia and industry.

Table 1.1. *Disciplinary Foci and Areas of Concentration*

| Disciplinary Foci   | Areas of Concentration  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aviation Technology</li> <li>• Building Construction Management Technology</li> <li>• Computer Graphics Technology</li> <li>• Computer Integrated Manufacturing Technology</li> <li>• Computer Technology</li> <li>• Electrical &amp; Computer Engineering Technology</li> <li>• Mechanical Engineering Technology</li> <li>• Organizational Leadership and Supervision</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Manufacturing—M.S.</li> <li>• Applied Computer Graphics—M.S.</li> <li>• Aviation and Aerospace Management—M.S.</li> <li>• Aviation Human Performance—M.S.</li> <li>• Building Construction Management—M.S.</li> <li>• Computational Science—M.S. &amp; Ph.D.</li> <li>• Cyber Forensics—M.S. thesis only</li> <li>• Information Security—M.S.</li> <li>• Information Technology—M.S.</li> <li>• Organizational Leadership—M.S.</li> <li>• Perceptual and Scientific Visualization—M.S.</li> <li>• Product Innovation and Development—M.S.</li> <li>• Sustainable Energy Systems—M.S.</li> </ul> |

Specific information about the Purdue Polytechnic Institute graduate program may be obtained from the web page at <https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/graduate-studies/>. Written inquiries may be directed to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, Rm. 150 Kroy Hall, Purdue University, 401 N. Grant, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2021, phone 765-494-6875.

This document mainly addresses the Master of Science – On-campus program and general graduate procedures. **A separate document, Polytechnic Ph.D. Handbook, is available from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Studies Office to describe the College's Ph.D. program and procedures. Specific departments having their own M.S. degrees may have additional requirements or their own departmental handbooks.**

### **1.2. Master of Science – On-Campus Program**

The Master of Science degree program is offered to graduate students admitted to the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. Applicants are required to have earned a baccalaureate (or equivalent) degree. The master's program requires a minimum of 33 credit hours and typically is completed in four (4) semesters. The program requires a primary Technology area with a minimum of 15 credit hours of courses with TECH (or departmental prefixes) and a minimum of one related area of at least six (6) credit hours. The master's degree is offered in both directed project and thesis versions. The directed project version requires a minimum of 30 hours of coursework plus three (3) credit hours of XXX 59800 dedicated to the directed project. The thesis master's requires a total of 27 hours of coursework plus six (6) credit hours of XXX 69800 Thesis Research.

***NOTE:** Several departments in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute have their own M.S. degrees. As of summer 2012, Aviation Technology (AT), Building Construction Management (BCM), Computer and Information Technology (C&IT), Computer Graphics Technology (CGT) and Industrial Technology (IT) each have their own M.S. degrees. If you are interested in those specific degrees, check their departmental graduate studies web site for information or additional requirements.*

### **1.3. Master of Science – Weekend Program**

When demand exists, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute may offer the master's degree via innovative delivery modes. Most recently it has employed a delivery model that utilizes a combination of traditional classroom instruction three (3) weekends per semester supplemented by distance education. This program has the same credit hour and core course requirements as the residency Master. Participating students matriculate through the program as a cohort and take a predetermined set of courses over five (5) semesters. For additional information, contact the Graduate Office at: <https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/purdue-online>.

### **1.4. Doctor of Philosophy**

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute also offers the Ph.D. in Technology to advance the practice of professionals in technology. This program requires a minimum of 90 credit hours (60 of which is beyond the master's degree) and some residency. It is not available by distance delivery. Full-time in this context includes those students with teaching or research assistantships. Pursuant to the doctoral student's faculty committee, the program may be extensively tailored to the specific needs of the candidate. Contact the Graduate Office for additional information at: <https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/degrees/phd-technology>.

## SECTION 2.0. ADMISSION PROCESS

Section 2.0 of this document provides an overview to the requirements, types of admission, time limits and opportunities for financial assistance relative to graduate study in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.

### 2.1. Requirements

Applicants to any of the Purdue Polytechnic Institute's graduate programs are required to submit an electronic application for admission to the Graduate School along with a resume, three letters of recommendation, a goal statement indicating their career goals and purpose for pursuing graduate studies, official original transcripts of all college coursework, and results of the GRE examination. International applicants must also submit TOEFL scores. While there are no minimum GRE requirements, the University's Graduate School's web site lists the specific TOEFL score requirements for language proficiency. **Specific additional requirements exist for areas of concentration within departments and for the Ph.D. program.** *Please check departmental websites for additional requirements.*

**NOTE:** *A separate handbook exists for the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Ph.D. program.*

Only after all the necessary materials have been assembled by the Polytechnic Graduate Studies Office, they are forwarded as a complete package to the appropriate department. There, the applicant's information is reviewed pursuant to the department's established admission criteria by the department's graduate admissions committee. Departmental admission recommendations may be one of the following:

- Admit without conditions,
- Admit with conditions (and these conditions must be specified), or
- Deny.

Departmental admission recommendations are forwarded to the Purdue Polytechnic Institute (Polytechnic) Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for review and recommendation to the Purdue University Graduate School.

Often, potential students ask, "What are the minimum grades and GRE scores needed?" The Polytechnic Graduate Education Committee and departmental graduate committees have not specified minimum scores because they prefer to consider the overall potential that each student presents. There are, however, well established prior performance expectations. Typically, the admissions committees seek candidates with overall undergraduate GPAs at or above the 3.0 (out of 4.0) and average or better scores on the GRE. The latter translates to scores at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. It must be noted that many students have been out of school for many years and the transcript information is only of minimal value. More importantly, the admissions committee examines the student's background, reasons and goals for seeking entry, and determines whether the student would benefit and be successful in the program. Incoming students must have a "B" (3.00/4.00) or better average in prior study to be admitted without conditions.

## **2.2. English Requirement**

The Graduate School of Purdue University requires that all students demonstrate proficiency in the English language before a graduate plan of study may be filed. There are three ways to meet this requirement:

1. Earn no grade lower than “B” in all undergraduate English composition courses;  
or
2. Obtain a score of 500 or higher on the Verbal Aptitude Section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE);  
or
3. Satisfactory performance in ENGL 059 (ENGL 009 for international students), an essay test administered by the Office of Writing Review.

Non-native English speaking applicants must take the Purdue TOFEL exam before applying. If a student is admitted with the condition that the English proficiency requirement must be satisfied, work must begin during the first semester of enrollment with registration in ENGL 050 (ENGL 009 for international students). If the requirement is not met during the first semester, the student will be registered in ENGL 050 or ENGL 009 for the second semester. **The English proficiency requirement must be satisfied by the end of the second enrollment period, or eligibility to register for additional course work will be withdrawn.**

## **2.3. Conditional Admission**

For those students admitted who do not meet unconditional admission criteria to the master’s degree program (e.g., 3.00/4.00 or better average in prior study), certain other performance elements may be considered. For example, substantial career accomplishment as evidenced by the resume or high performance on the Graduate Record Examination may indicate that student potential for success is not adequately reflected in their prior academic record.

In particular, faculty reviewers of graduate applicants note the level of communication (oral and written) proficiency documented by the applicant and in cases where performance is below expectations, e.g., as demonstrated by a low GRE Verbal score, faculty may consider establishing English development experiences in addition to the program’s normal requirements.

Conditional admission requires that certain minimum performance standards be established, such as "must achieve at least a 3.00/4.00 graduate index at the completion of the first 12 credits following admission to the master’s degree program." In addition, admission committees may require certain undergraduate prerequisite coursework to satisfy a deficiency in the student’s background.

Academic conditions of admission for all conditionally admitted students will be monitored by the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Studies Office and/or the Graduate School, depending on who has imposed the condition. Each semester the Graduate School or college will remove the eligibility to register for future sessions for

all students who failed to satisfy their conditions of admission in the previous session. Thus, there is a grace period of one semester.

Departments are to justify and indicate any conditions under which these students should have their eligibility to register restored and be allowed to continue to study for the degree. This is requested by a memo from the **major professor** and routed through the college's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, detailing reasons why the student should be permitted to continue. Upon Graduate School approval, the eligibility to register will be restored.

#### **2.4. Time Limitation**

A candidate for the master's degree is expected to complete all requirements for the degree **within five years** from the completion of the oldest course on the plan of study.

#### **2.5. Financial Assistance**

The following two sections describe the availability of financial assistant and information about assistantship appointments.

##### **2.5.1. Availability**

A limited number of graduate teaching and research assistantships from departments within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute are available. All assistantship applications are to be directed to the Department Head of the appropriate department. Additional appointments are available from other elements of the University, such as the ITaP, the Graduate School, the library system and student housing. Details on assistantships and fellowships outside the Purdue Polytechnic Institute are available at Purdue University's Graduate School web site at <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/funding/>. Additional information may be available from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Department Heads.

##### **2.5.2. Assistantship Appointments**

In order to provide opportunity for the student to progress satisfactorily toward the degree objective, graduate appointments will ordinarily be for no more than one-half time and for a maximum of two (2) academic years. Renewal of graduate appointments for additional time will be based on satisfactory performance in the position and academic performance toward plan of study requirements, as well as availability of positions.

Teaching assistantships (TA) and Research Assistantships (RA) include a tuition waiver during the semester the student has the assistantship. Normally teaching assistantships are not available in the summer. However, if a student has a teaching assistantship in the spring and the following fall semester, a tuition waiver for the summer is still available to the student.

***NOTE: Assistantships DO NOT cover the cost of student fees assessed each semester.***

## SECTION 3.0 POLICY ON MONITORING, PROBATION, AND DISMISSAL

Section 3.0 provides an overview to the monitoring, probation, dismissal and appeal policies in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.

### **3.1. Minimum Cumulative GPA Requirements (in graduate courses)**

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute has a specific GPA requirement for graduation as shown in Table 3.1. It is the same as the University requirement. Also shown are the GPA requirements for probation and dismissal relative to the College's programs. Sections 3.2 thru 3.5 outline the policies and procedures relative to probation and dismissal.

Table 3.1. *Graduation, Probation and Dismissal GPA Thresholds*

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Graduation | 3.00/4.00 |
| Probation  | 2.75/4.00 |
| Dismissal  | 2.50/4.00 |

***NOTE:** University requirements state that no grade of “D” or “F” is allowed in a course on the plan of study. Any plan of study course in which a grade of “D” or “F” is received must be repeated and completed successfully; it cannot be dropped from the plan of study.*

### **3.2. Monitoring**

Each semester graduate student performance is evaluated to ensure that the student is performing well and will graduate with a 3.00/4.00. Procedurally this is done in the following way:

- Graduate student grades and academic progress will be monitored at the departmental level.
- Monitoring will begin after six (6) credit hours have been attempted and every semester thereafter in which the student is enrolled.
- Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 /4.00 with no grade less than “B” and earn grades of “Satisfactory” in thesis/directed project research credit hours.

***NOTE:** The grade “B-“ (B minus) is below the expected grade graduate student should earn in his or her courses.*

- If a student has a **semester** GPA less than 2.75/4.00 or a **cumulative** GPA less than 3.00/4.00, a letter will be drafted by the department head to the student, with a copy to the major professor, to the Graduate School, and to the student's file, indicating the last semester was determined unsatisfactory and that they are being placed on probation.

**NOTE:** Graduate students that receive an incomplete in a course will have one semester and 12 weeks into the following semester to complete the course. If that is not done, the Registrar automatically makes the grade a failure.

### **3.3. Probation**

Probation occurs when a student performs below the Polytechnic standards in a semester. Procedurally probation means:

- If a student's **semester** GPA falls below 2.75 or if a student's **cumulative** GPA falls below 3.00/4.00, the student will be placed on academic probation.
- The Polytechnic Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will generate a letter informing the student, major professor, and department head of the probationary status. A copy will also be forwarded to the Graduate School and placed in the student's permanent record.
- **The student will have one semester to raise their cumulative GPA to the required level and return to good standing.** If they do not, they will not be able to register for classes the subsequent semester and will be dismissed from the program.
- Eligibility for an assistantship while on probation will be left to the Department Head's discretion.

### **3.4. Dismissal**

- If a student's **semester** GPA is below a 2.50 or if a student's **cumulative** GPA falls below 2.75, the student will be immediately dismissed from the program.
- A student will be dismissed from the program if they remain on probation for one semester without improvement. This policy is independent of any assistantship the student may hold.

### **3.5. Appeal**

- A student may appeal their probationary or dismissal status by contacting the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the requisite notification letter. The appeal should include the student's specific reasons for exception to the aforementioned policies.
- The appeal will be reviewed by a subcommittee of three (3) members of the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Education Committee (excluding the Graduate Education Committee representative from the student's home department).
- If the review committee recommends reinstating the student, the student's graduate advisor/chair must approve. If the graduate advisor does not approve, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will render a final decision.
- In cases where a student is reinstated without approval of the graduate advisor, a new advisor may need to be assigned.
- The decision of the appeal subcommittee and/or Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will be considered final and will be delivered within thirty (30) days of the student's request for exception to probation.



## SECTION 4.0. MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Typically the Master of Science degree requires that each student complete the requisite number of courses and execute a capstone project. The capstone project may be either a thesis or a directed project. However, some departments in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute also offer coursework-only degrees, where there may be no capstone project. Typically proposal of the capstone project occurs in the next to last semester of study (but this can vary). As a process, the Master of Science experience includes:

1. Coursework (27 to 33 credit hours)
  - a. Appointment of major professor
  - b. Selection of a committee (two people in addition to a chair)
  - c. Filing of the Electronic Plan of Study (EPOS)
    - i. Draft of the Plan of Study must be submitted by the end of the first semester of study.
    - ii. A final Plan of Study must be submitted by the end of the second semester of study.
  - d. Successful completion of all courses
2. Capstone Project (thesis or directed project)
  - a. Capstone project proposal and proposal defense meeting
  - b. Obtain appropriate certifications for research (CITI, HIPAA, FERPA, etc.).
  - c. Execution of project
  - d. Final oral defense of capstone project

### 4.1. Program Credit Hour Requirements

The master's degree program administered through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute is available in both thesis and non-thesis versions that both require 33 credit hours as a minimum. The non-thesis option may be a directed project or other alternatives offered by some departments (i.e., coursework only). Table 4.1 provides a summary of the program requirements.

Table 4.1. *Credit Hour Requirements for Master's in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute*

| Requirement            | Thesis      | Non-Thesis       |                 |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                        |             | Directed Project | Coursework Only |
| <i>Course Credits</i>  | 27 cr. hrs. | 30 cr hrs.       | 33 cr. hrs.     |
| <i>Courses</i>         |             |                  |                 |
| <i># of Required</i>   | 2 courses   | 2 courses        | 1 course        |
| <i># of Other</i>      | 7 courses   | 8 courses        | 10 courses      |
| <i>Capstone Course</i> | XXX 69800*  | XXX 59800*       | N/A             |
| <i>Capstone Hours</i>  | 6 cr. hrs.  | 3 cr. hrs.       | N/A             |
| <i>Total Hours</i>     | 33 cr. hrs. | 33 cr. hrs.      | 33 cr. hrs.     |

*\*Students take at least two semesters of credit for XXX 598 or XXX 698. The first semester is for creation and approval of the proposal. Students should work with their advisor to determine the number of credits taken for proposal credit.*

#### **4.2. Residency Requirements**

The total number of hours of academic credit used to satisfy residency requirements consists of all course credit hours that appear on the plan of study, other graduate course credit hours with grades of "C" or better that appear on the Purdue transcript, and research credit hours with grades of "S" that appear on the Purdue transcript. In fulfilling these requirements, a maximum of 18 credit hours will be allowed from any one semester (maximum hours proportional to length of summer session equals nine (9) credit hours).

#### **4.3. Appointment of a Major Professor/Advisor**

Each graduate degree plan of study is unique to the individual student and his/her background, experience, and degree objectives. To guide in the development of a degree plan, a major professor (advisor) will be appointed to chair the student's advisory committee and will assist the student through the program. A student may request a major professor in their application materials, but this request may not always be possible. It is based on advisement load, research commitments, and other factors. The major professor will become the most important contact person, and the major professor/student relationship must be a mutually acceptable one. The major professor serves concurrently as advocate, mentor, and supervisor of the graduate student.

***NOTE:** A student may change major professor if their research topic changes significantly as a result of their course of study.*

#### **4.4. Graduate Advisory Committee**

The student and the major professor are responsible for the selection of an advisory committee. The duties of that committee are to assist the student in the preparation of the plan of study and to offer advice during the period of graduate work. It is important that the initial advisor, whether or not she/he continues as the permanent advisor, initiate activities to assist students in becoming acquainted with potential faculty to serve on the advisory committee.

The student's master's advisory committee, at a minimum, consists of three members of the graduate faculty. The major professor and one other member should be from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute graduate faculty (refer to the section on "Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Faculty"), and an advisor for the related area (see the Polytechnic Graduate web site for a listing of the college's graduate faculty). Members of the committee need not be faculty with whom the student has taken coursework. A co-advisor may be designated when advantageous to the student and where it can build faculty experience. Students and major professors should note that if a student's plan of study and/or research project would be significantly improved by the expertise of a faculty member or a person outside of the university, they may request consideration for special certification for such service. Such requests require a rationale and description of the expertise and are routed to the Graduate School via the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Office. The request for appointment of the advisory committee is made on the same form (and at the same time as) the request for approval of the student's plan of study (refer to section 5 of this handbook, titled, *Electronic Plan of Study Requirements*).

The advisory committee should be selected preferably **during the first enrollment semester, but not later than the end of the second enrollment semester**. The committee will then be in place to help the student develop the plan of study and review/approve the student's directed project proposal, which must be approved before actual work on the project may begin. The student should discuss the plan of study with their preferred potential advisory committee members and secure their permission to list them on the plan of study **before** the plan is submitted for electronic signature.

***NOTE:** The thesis proposal must be approved prior to the semester the student intends to graduate.*

#### **4.5. Course Load Recommendations and Requirements**

The maximum course load for graduate students is 18 credits (and occasionally 19 credit hours with special permission). Typically 18 credit hours translate into six (6) courses. Eight (8) credit hours is considered the full-time certification standard for graduate students by the Graduate School.

***NOTE:** To maintain full time status, international graduate students must take at least eight (8) credit hours per semester.*

Most students inquire as to how many classes they should take when they have an assistantship. Table 4.2 provides some recommendations as to how many credit hours are typical when also working as a teaching or research assistant.

Table 4.2. *Recommended Course Loading for Assistants*

| <b>Assistantship Load</b> | <b>Recommended Course Load</b> | <i>*Assumes ½-time is equivalent 20 working hours.</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| ¼-time assistant          | 12 to 15 cr. hrs.              |  |
| ½-time assistant*         | 9 to 12 cr. hrs.               |  |
| ¾-time assistant          | 6 to 9 cr. hrs.                |  |

***NOTE:** A candidate for the master's degree is expected to complete all requirements for the degree within five years from the completion of the oldest course on the plan of study.*

##### **4.5.1. Reduced Course Loads for International Students**

To maintain visa status, international students are expected maintain a fulltime load. Purdue's Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) provides information about this requirement and offers a means for international students to request permission to take a reduced course load. Appendix A provides a visual example of the form. Graduate students desiring a reduced course load should work with ISS to request this before their course load is reduced below that required by U.S. Immigration rules. See the ISS web site for more information: <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/>.

#### **4.6. Registering for Courses as a Graduate Student**

Purdue University provides online scheduling of courses for all of its students via the *myPurdue* system. The software used for this system is called *Banner*. Typically the student works with his or her advisor to determine the appropriate courses to take for a given semester. Then the student works with the graduate coordinator in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute to sign up for courses. Typically students can self-register. A registration PIN number is required to perform self- registration. You will be informed of your PIN number at the time of admission from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Office. However, at times students may need an ‘override’ to be able to register for certain courses. More information about registering for classes can be found at the Registrar’s web site: <http://www.purdue.edu/registrar/>.

It is the graduate student’s responsibility to keep track of specific dates relative to course scheduling. These include deadlines for registration, deadlines for dropping courses and the like. The Graduate School announces these dates on its web site and typically the deadlines are emailed to students each semester at appropriate times.

#### **4.7. Dropping and Adding Courses**

To drop or add a course, the student uses the *myPurdue* system. All variable credit courses will require the Graduate Office to provide an override for the student to enroll in the course. The Graduate Office must also set the desired credit hours (when a student enrolls, the default is one (1) credit hour). Subsequently, be sure to confirm that a dropped or added course has been officially recorded by checking *myPurdue*.

Courses dropped during the first two weeks of classes will not appear on your permanent record. Courses dropped during weeks three and four will be recorded as a “W” grade on your permanent record (withdraw). Courses dropped during weeks five through nine require the signature of both the instructor and the Polytechnic Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. In such a case, the instructor must assign a grade of “W,” “WF,” or “WN.” The end of this period is the final deadline for withdrawing from a class.

**NOTE:** A “W” simply records the fact that the student withdrew after the second week of the semester. A “WF” records that the student was failing a dropped course. “WF” grades are not included in computing the GPA. A “WN” records failing status in a course being taken Pass/No Pass. “W,” “WF,” and “WN” grades are recorded on your permanent record.

Courses added during weeks two through four require the approval and signature of the instructor and Polytechnic Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Courses may be added during weeks five through nine, but only under extraordinary circumstances. Courses added after the fourth week require the approval and signature of the instructor, the Polytechnic Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and the head of the department where the course is offered (for non-Polytechnic courses).

**NOTE:** Graduate students that receive an incomplete in a course will have one semester and 12 weeks into the following semester to complete the

*course. If that is not done, the Registrar automatically makes the grade a failure.*

#### **4.8. Tuition Versus Fee-Based Courses**

Any student who pursues a tuition-based residential degree that requests a fee-based distance learning course as part of their Plan of Study, may enroll in the fee-based distance learning course given the following:

1. There is sufficient availability of open seats such that no fee-based student would be prohibited from enrolling in the course.
2. The tuition-based residential student pays the required fee for the distance learning course. The fee will be in addition to the university charged tuition rates.
3. The student enrolls in the fee-based distance learning course through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute ProSTAR enrollment process for undergraduate/graduate programs.

## SECTION 5.0. ELECTRONIC PLAN OF STUDY REQUIREMENTS

The philosophy of the Graduate School of Purdue University is that advanced study should be tailored to the individual and his/her professional and intellectual objectives. Thus, the plan of study is unique to each student's needs and desires. To facilitate such an individually tailored program, each master's degree plan of study consists of a primary area and one or more related areas. Both the primary area and the related area(s) are based on the relationship of the course content and not on the departmental course prefix.

The development of the plan of study begins as part of the initial course registration. The major professor will discuss the student's background, interests, and degree objectives as part of the preparation for the first enrollment. Based on this discussion, the major professor will request spaces in the appropriate courses. The major professor will also recommend possible related areas and advisors.

In addition to course work requirements, each student must complete and successfully defend a research project known as a directed project (XXX 59800) or thesis (XXX 69800). The plan of study should be developed to support this research requirement (refer to the sections on "The Directed Project" or "Thesis").

The plan of study must list all courses the student will take to meet the degree requirements. These include the names for the primary and related areas of study; the course number, course title, and credits for each course; the date when the course was or will be completed; and the research area. The plan of study is electronically signed by each member of the advisory committee and the student. After review, the plan is electronically signed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The plan is then submitted to the Graduate School for formal approval. After an approved Plan of Study is on file, committee and course changes can be made at any time up until graduation. This can be accomplished by clicking on the Create Change Request link available next to an Approved plan of study. The Change Request link will initiate a Change Request form. These procedures all occur electronically via the EPOS procedure.

### 5.1. Filing the Plan of Study

The following instructions detail how to set up and file your plan of study.

1. Go to myPurdue at <https://mypurdue.purdue.edu>. (If you have never set up your Purdue Career or Email Accounts, you must that first).
  - a. To activate your Purdue Career Account, visit <https://www.purdue.edu/apps/account/AccountSetup> and fill in the requested information.
  - b. For Email Account setup information, visit <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/email/atPurdue>.

- c. For additional information and help related to myPurdue or your Purdue Accounts, contact the Purdue Help Desk at (765) 494-4000 or [itap@purdue.edu](mailto:itap@purdue.edu).
2. Click on the Academic tab of myPurdue.
3. Click on the Graduate School Plan of Study link to log in.
4. Click on the Plan of Study Generator (POSG) link.
5. Click on Create New Plan of Study.
6. Once in the POSG, refer to the Help buttons located on each page to assist you. You may save your POS and return to it later if you cannot complete it in one sitting.
7. Once you are completed with your plan of study, finalize it to submit it.

Be sure to review the Plan of Study Checklist to verify completeness of your EPOS before submitting it in final form:

MS with a focus in Engineering Technology:

<https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/degrees/ms-engineering-technology>

MS with a focus in Technology, Leadership and Innovation:

<https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/degrees/ms-technology-leadership-and-innovation>

Upon approval by the Graduate School, the plan of study becomes a contract among the student, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, and the Graduate School. When all requirements of the plan of study are completed satisfactorily, the student is awarded the Master of Science (M.S.) degree. Refer to the sample plan of study form in Appendix B. Appendix C shows a flowchart of the EPOS creation and approval process.

***NOTE:** If a course in the plan of study is not available when the student needs it, or if the direction of the student's research topic changes, students can submit a EPOS change of plan of study. Once filed, the change request requires prior signatories to approve the requested change.*

## **5.2. Primary Area**

All master's degree plans of study will have a Technology primary area. This primary area will have either a technology emphasis or a teaching/research emphasis. It will include between 15 and 24 semester hours (exclusive of the three (3) semester hours in the directed project XXX 598 or six (6) semester hours in the thesis XXX 698 research), with a minimum of 15 semester hours in courses with a TECH (or Polytechnic departmental) prefix. The primary area should include the following core courses (or acceptable substitutes to be discussed with the major professor):

- IT 50700 Measurement and Evaluation in Industry and Technology **or** STAT 50100, STAT 51100, or PSYC 60000.
- TECH 64600 Analysis of Research in Industry and Technology

The other courses included in the primary area are selected to enhance the career goals of the student. Undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level) may not be included in the primary area of the plan of study without special permission from the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

### **5.3. Related Area**

Each plan of study must include a related area of at least six (6) semester hours from another area. While these are typically outside the primary area, they can include additional courses from the student's primary area. In some cases, there may be two related areas if such a plan will enhance the student's professional goals. Common related areas on plans of study include Industrial Engineering, Human Factors, Curriculum and Instruction, Adult Education, or one of the disciplines within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute (e.g., ECET, MET, CGT, etc.) It is encouraged that each related area should have a faculty representative on the student's advisory committee.

#### **5.3.1. Undergraduate Credit in a Related Area**

A related area may include undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level) **only when followed by appropriate 500- and 600-level courses**, and are subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Undergraduate courses listed in the related area must be in excess of the baccalaureate degree requirements. Graduate School policy stipulates that 100- and 200-level courses may not appear on a plan of study and that no more than six (6) semester hours of 300- and 400-level courses may be applied to graduate work and a grade of "B" or better is required.

### **5.4. Credit Limitations**

The combination of undergraduate excess credit, transfer credit, post-baccalaureate registrant credit, and independent study credit included in a master's degree plan of study must not exceed 15 semester hours. These credit categories are defined as follows.

***NOTE:** For students obtaining two M.S. degrees, a maximum of nine Purdue credit hours (at the 500- and 600-level) are allowed to overlap between coursework required in the two degrees.*

#### **5.4.1. Undergraduate Excess Credit**

Undergraduate students attending Purdue University who have time available to take courses in excess of their undergraduate degree course requirements may earn a maximum of twelve (12) semester hours of credit in 500- and 600-level courses which were taken and declared as graduate work on Registrar's Form 350 at the time that grades were filed for that semester. Undergraduate excess credit will be certified by the Registrar only if the student:

1. Took the course during the senior year;
2. Received a grade of at least "B" in the course;
3. The course was designated as a graduate course; and
4. The student's work in the course was performed at the level required for graduate students in the course.



### **5.4.2. Transfer Credit**

A maximum of half the required course credit hours completed at another institution may be included in the master's degree plan of study. Graduate School policy states that transfer credit will be allowed only for courses in which a grade of "B" or better was obtained. A catalog description of the course and an official transcript showing completion of the course and the grade received must be submitted with the plan of study.

### **5.4.3. Post-baccalaureate Registrant Credit**

The Graduate School has created an enrollment category known as "post-baccalaureate registrant" to enable those who have a Bachelor's degree to enroll in courses that are considered appropriate to the registrant's personal objectives. A limited amount of credit earned in this category is available for inclusion on a plan of study at the discretion of the advisory committee, the recommendation of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the approval of the Graduate School.

A maximum of twelve (12) semester hours of graduate credit earned as a post-baccalaureate registrant may be included in a plan of study; no post-baccalaureate course in which a grade of less than "B" was earned will be permitted on the plan of study.

***NOTE:** The sum of credits earned as undergraduate excess credit and in post-baccalaureate registrant status that may be used on a plan of study is limited to twelve (12) semester hours.*

### **5.4.4. Independent Study Credit**

A maximum of six (6) semester hours of independent study credit (e.g., OLS 59000, CGT 59000 etc.) may be included in a plan of study. Independent study courses require a specific proposal and approval process as defined in Section 6 of this handbook.

## **5.5. Capstone/Synthesis Requirement**

Most Purdue Polytechnic Institute master's degree Plans of Study must contain a capstone/synthesis requirement that is either a directed project or a thesis. A comparison of these two requirements is presented in section 7.0 of this handbook. When completing the EPOS, XXX 598 or XXX 698 is not shown in the list of courses. Instead, these courses (and associated credits) are acknowledged in the notes field. For example, the notes field may include the following:

“The student will complete six (6) credit hours of TECH 698 to satisfy the thesis requirement.”

Or,

“The student will complete three (3) credit hours of TECH 598 to satisfy the directed project requirement.”

Students who are enrolled in a “course work only” degree should consult with their department's graduate representative to ascertain how the notes field should be completed.

### **5.6. Examination Requirement**

Each thesis or directed project candidate must pass a final oral examination in order to graduate. Coursework only students may or may not include a final oral examination. Consult with your major professor.

The final oral examination is considered public and is taken during the session in which candidacy is declared. The candidate's examining committee will conduct the examination and evaluate mastery of content related to the plan of study. A second purpose of this oral examination is for the student to defend the directed project or thesis. The final oral examination must be scheduled through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Office of Graduate Studies no less than three weeks prior to the date of the examination. If the student's performance is not acceptable in one or more areas, the examining committee will specify what the student must do in order to eliminate any deficiencies.

### **5.7. Examining Committee**

An examining committee will normally include the members of the student's advisory committee. Additional members may be appointed by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The advisory committee chairperson (the major professor) may recommend additional members for appointment (see *Section 10.0. Post-Project/Thesis Activities*).

### **5.8. Publication Requirement**

Scholarship plays a very important role in the preparation of M.S. and Ph.D. students in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. Graduate students need to understand the role of scholarship in higher education as well as its importance in disseminating new knowledge. The Polytechnic values the role and contribution of its faculty and students in its efforts to engage in discovery with impact. It is important that graduate students learn how to create and present scholarship as part of their academic training. For these reasons, the Purdue Polytechnic Institute requires all Ph.D. students and M.S. thesis students to engage in scholarship.

M.S. students are required to have at least one of the following in “in review” or “published” status before they undertake their final thesis oral examination:

- Refereed or reviewed journal article
- Refereed or reviewed trade journal article
- Refereed or reviewed conference presentation
- Reviewed conference poster

Exceptions to the above requirements have to be approved by the student's committee chair and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Some other form of scholarship should be substituted for the above if the student requests an exception.

### **5.9. Recommended International Experience**

Sources cite many benefits of study abroad programs for both graduate and

undergraduate students, as well as faculty, within the university environment. In addition to learning about globalization and related issues, the experience of short term study outside the US, conducting international presentations, and leadership or involvement in international projects or project teams can have a positive professional affect on students. Purdue is a global institution and in the Strategic Plan one of the three major goals is “Meeting global challenges by enhancing Purdue’s presence and impact in addressing grand challenges of humanity”. For these reasons, an international experience is recommended for all graduate students in the Polytechnic.

It is recommended that M.S. and Ph.D. students in the Polytechnic participate in one of the following:

- Enrolling in one graduate level course dealing with globalization, internationalization, or culture (examples: ECON 53400, EDCI 68500, EDST 50400, FR 58100, GER 58100, HK 58100, JPNS 54300, MET 52700, MGMT 60100 or 64900, OBHR 65000, OLS 57800, POL 53000, RUS 58100, SPAN 68200).
  - Participate in a short-term study abroad course
  - Participate in the Atlantis concurrent degree program
  - Present a paper at an international conference outside the U.S.
  - Participate in an international industrial project that requires travel abroad or interaction with international participants
- SECTION 6.0. REGISTRATION FOR AN INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE (XXX 590)

Independent study courses may be included in a graduate plan of study. A copy of the final product or a complete report of the study must be submitted to the professor in charge of the independent study. Failure to do so may result in an incomplete or failing grade. This work must be independent of other required course studies (previous, existing, or future). ***Registration in XXX 590 may not be initiated until all of the following procedures have been satisfied. (Note XXX refers to departmental prefix code.)***

To enroll in an independent study the student must:

1. Obtain an independent study authorization form from the Polytechnic web site at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/TECH\\_Independent\\_Study\\_Authorization\\_Jan\\_2013.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/TECH_Independent_Study_Authorization_Jan_2013.pdf). This form is a request for permission to enroll in an independent study course (refer to the sample form in Appendix D).
2. Meet with the major professor to discuss the proposed study and secure his/her approval.
3. Prepare a detailed prospectus (typed or word processed, APA format, title page) including the following sections:
  - a) Problem: Describe the problem you propose to address clearly, delimit the problem area, and provide a rationale for its significance.
  - b) Purpose and Objectives: Provide a numbered listing of all educational objectives to be accomplished.

- c) Define how the course relates to your degree objectives, i.e., what it will do for you.
- d) Procedures: Explain the methods to be used and any unusual requirements for materials, equipment, or facilities. A graphic time line and two progress reports must be submitted by the student to the professor in charge between weeks three and ten of the semester. Provide a narrative, flow chart, or outline of step-by-step procedures used to complete the study. If applicable, provide a supply and materials cost worksheet.
- e) Outcomes: Itemize and describe the deliverables/products, i.e., tangible results (software source code, papers, reports, products, or summaries) of the study and list whom will receive copies (office, professor in charge, student).

***NOTE:** This prospectus should be about one to three pages in length. A good way to prepare a prospectus is to subhead it using the above categories and present the information below each subheading.*

- 4. Meet with the professor (the professor in charge) who will guide the study to discuss the prospectus.
- 5. Revise the prospectus as necessary. Complete the INDEPENDENT STUDY AUTHORIZATION FORM (refer to the sample in Appendix D), attach it to the prospectus, and secure the signatures of the major professor (academic advisor), the professor in charge, and this professor's Department Head.
- 6. Submit the signed copy of the request to the Office of Graduate Studies along with a completed Form 23. The Form 23 MUST NOT be submitted for processing prior to securing the necessary approvals for the prospectus.

***NOTE:** Independent study credit may not be used for graduate research credit (i.e., as a substitute for required XXX 598 or XXX 698 credit hours).*

## SECTION 7.0. THESIS/DIRECTED PROJECT

The following sections describe in detail information related to the directed project and thesis requirements within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. Students completing a coursework only degree should consult with their department's graduate representative or their advisor to ascertain completion requirements for those degrees.

### 7.1. Comparisons between the Directed Project and the Thesis

The following gives a brief comparison between the directed project and thesis. This comparison is simplistic in nature and is by no means absolute. Students and advisors need to work together to establish a common understanding of the scope, nature, format, expectations and deliverables of the student's capstone endeavor.

**NOTE:** *For a comprehensive listing of all the contents or sections of the directed project and thesis, see sections 8.10.1 and 8.11.1 respectively.*

#### Directed Project

Total immersion in corporate environment, i.e., business/industry focus

#### Directed Project Format

- Executive summary
  - Section 1: Introduction
  - Section 2: Literature/Prior Work
  - Section 3: Procedures employed
  - Section 4: Data and Results
  - Section 5: Conclusions, recommendations, and financial implications
  - Appendices

#### Oral Defense

#### Outcomes

- Document Outcomes
  - Published or not Published
  - Stored in corporate repository (if applicable)
  - Stored in E-Pubs section of Purdue Library
- Career Outcomes
  - Future leaders in industry

#### Resume

#### Master's Thesis

Total immersion in academic environment, i.e., academic/university focus

#### Thesis Format

- Abstract
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Review of the literature
  - Chapter 3: Methodology
  - Chapter 4: Presentation of Data
  - Chapter 5: Conclusions, Discussion, and Recommendations
  - Appendices

#### Oral Defense

#### Outcomes

- Document Outcomes
  - Published or not published
  - Documented in *ProQuest* repository
  - Stored in E-Pubs section of Purdue Library
- Career Outcomes
  - Future leaders in academia

#### Vita

### 7.2 The Directed Project - A Definition

The directed project was originally defined as an applied research project that was more extensive and sophisticated than a graduate-level independent study and less formal than a master's thesis. The overall objective of the requirement was to engage each graduate student in a study, typically industry or business focused, which was sufficiently involved as to require more than one semester to conceive, conduct, and report. The focus was to be placed on a topic with practical implications rather than original research.

### **7.2.1. Directed Project Characteristics**

- Written for industry
- Includes a business presentation
- Results in a) a tangible product of value to business and industry, or b) education for business and industry
- Can be measured in dollars, but this is not a requirement
- Usually involves a technology problem solving activity
- Is documented to permit replication
- Can be published, but this is not a requirement
- Usually involves some form of business or industrial validation
- Generally requires application of a synthesis of coursework

### **7.2.2. Purposes of Directed Projects**

- Ability to identify a business or industry relevant solution to a technology problem
- An ability to define and/or validate a business or industry relevant problem
- Addressing of a technological problem in a systematic and replicable manner
- Effective use of technical/professional research and/or development procedures
- Identifying criteria for success/solution of the problem
- Gathering information appropriate to the problem by employing business research procedures (e.g., 70% business/industry sources and 30% academic sources versus the reverse)
- Ability to document the research and development activity in a manner that permits replication and assessment of key decisions and alternatives
- Write effectively in a form customary to business and industry
- Prepare and deliver a presentation in a form customary to business and industry

### **7.2.3. Effective Directed Project Practices**

1. Directed projects should require students to select and employ effective research and development procedure(s) to address the problem.
2. A directed project generates a new solution, product or procedure. It may involve “proof of concept” and it must be of direct value to business or industry or to the education of individuals in business or industry.
3. Directed projects should incorporate a strategic financial overview component depicting such characteristics as cost, ROI (Return on Investment), etc.
4. A component of the directed project should be an Implementation Plan (i.e., recommendations for deploying the developed solution). This plan should include the suggested near and mid term steps.
5. Industry partners are encouraged for validation or other involvement.
6. Teams of students working on larger projects are permissible as long as each has a unique and significant contribution and that there is a high degree of independence so that one student’s success is not predicated on another’s performance.

7. Employ either a) business or industry style manual such as the *Chicago Manual of Style*, b) other relevant business/industry writing style manual, or c) the APA manual when required by the advisor.
8. Directed projects are necessarily filed in Purdue's library (via the E-pubs section). Projects containing intellectual property are marked as confidential and not made publicly available.

### **7.3 The Master's Thesis**

A master's thesis in technology is a significant piece of original work, typically involving research, a formal written description of that research, and an oral defense of the research. Typically, the thesis contributes new knowledge to the discipline against the backdrop of what others have contributed to the topic as well (via the literature review). The tone should be scholarly, with a primary audience of other researchers. The thesis is more than a term paper but less than a doctoral dissertation. For example, a synthesis and description of others' research and writings alone may be appropriate as a term paper. While a comprehensive "review of the literature" must be included as a section of the thesis, it is not sufficient by itself. On the other hand, a doctoral dissertation might use an experimental or survey methodology involving large numbers of subjects on a national or international level. A master's thesis may be narrower in scope, being restricted to a local problem, a smaller number of subjects, or a conceptual model. A thesis should not just be an expression of your opinions; conclusions and opinions must be based on research results and analysis.

To pursue the development of a thesis, students must first develop a thesis proposal and secure its approval by their master's committee. A formal meeting of the student's graduate committee is required to evaluate the proposal and the College's Graduate Studies Office is to be provided a copy of the approved proposal carrying the signatures of each committee member. Proposals are developed pursuant to student enrollment in 1 to 3 hours of XXX 698. Subsequent enrollment in XXX 698 for the additional required credits is contingent upon filing of the approved proposal. Students may not receive more than six (6) credits for XXX 698 on their EPOS.

#### **7.3.1. Key Points about the Thesis**

1. A thesis typically addresses a theory or knowledge gap. Often it does so by testing or evaluating or by developing and validating a concept or methodology.
2. Theses require documentation of the significance of the problem or gap in knowledge they address (i.e., they make a contribution to the discipline).
3. All theses result in a clearly identifiable new knowledge of significance (requires documentation of originality).
4. Generally theses involve the use of one or more of the accepted research paradigms and established research techniques. They may be quantitative or qualitative in nature. They may involve historical or philosophical, scientific or technological perspectives. They may be experimental or correlational in methodology. Other forms/paradigms of research scholarship may also be employed if approved by the committee.

5. The thesis format must follow the *Purdue Graduate School Thesis Guidelines* and the Purdue Polytechnic Institute requirements as supplemented and detailed in this handbook. The format is APA citation format with some specific differences (see section 8.5 and 8.6).
6. Theses demonstrate a high level of reasoning, effective written communication, and are documented in a form that permits replication.
7. Theses are necessarily filed in Purdue's library (via the E-pubs section). Thesis containing intellectual property are marked as confidential and not made publicly available.
8. Theses are filed with the University and the *ProQuest* Repository (<http://www.proquest.com/>). Thesis containing intellectual property are marked as confidential and not made publicly available.



## SECTION 8.0. DIRECTED PROJECT AND THESIS PROCEDURES

Section 8.0 outlines specific procedures related to completing the capstone requirement of a directed project or thesis. Procedurally a student must:

- a) Enroll in XXX 598 (typically one (1) credit hour) or XXX 698 (typically one (1) credit hour) to generate and successfully defend the directed project or thesis proposal. Proposals typically include sections 1 thru 3 (directed project) or chapters 1 thru 3 (thesis).
- b) Defend proposal in front of graduate committee. The graduate committee is comprised of three faculty. Students typically do a 20 minute presentation with sufficient time remaining for committee members to ask questions and help guide the proposed project.
- c) Obtain appropriate approvals (if applicable) to conduct research (CITI, IRB, HIPAA, FERPA, etc).
- d) If approved, execute the directed project or thesis (during this time students enroll in subsequent required hours of XXX 598 or XXX 698).
- e) Upon completion of the project and associated documentation:
  - a. Thesis students must meet with the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor for approval of their format and then defend project in front of graduate committee.
  - b. Directed project students must defend project in front of graduate committee.
- f) Upon successful defense of the project:
  - a. Thesis students must deposit the thesis with the University, with the College, and with the committee.
  - b. Directed project students must deposit the project with the College and with the committee.

### 8.1. Directed Project XXX 598 Enrollment

Exact enrollment timing can vary, but at least two consecutive enrollments in XXX 598 are required. Typically, **the first enrollment is for one (1) semester hour of credit in the next-to-last (but earlier enrollment is permitted if appropriate) academic term.** During this academic session, a proposal is developed and approved by the advisory committee. Subsequent registration in XXX 598 is not permitted until the approved and signed proposal has been filed in the Graduate Studies Office. **The second XXX 598 enrollment is for two (2) semester hours of credit,** in which the study is conducted, the final report written, and the study defended in an oral examination.

***NOTE:** The directed project proposal defense and the directed project final defense CANNOT occur in the same semester.*

Should the student not complete the project in the two enrollment periods, s/he is required to enroll for one (1) semester hour of credit each term until the project has been completed. The candidate must be enrolled in XXX 598 for at least one (1) semester hour of credit in the academic session in which the degree is awarded.

## **8.2. Thesis XXX 698 Enrollment**

Exact enrollment procedures can vary, but at least two consecutive enrollments in XXX 698 are required. Typically, **the first enrollment is for one (1) semester hour of credit in the next-to-last** (but earlier enrollment is permitted if appropriate) **academic term**. During this academic session, a proposal is developed and approved by the advisory committee. Subsequent registration in XXX 698 is not permitted until the approved and signed proposal has been filed in the Graduate Studies Office. **The second XXX 698 enrollment is for three (3) to five (5) semester hours of credit**, in which the study is conducted, the final report written, and the study defended in an oral examination.

***NOTE:** The thesis proposal defense and the thesis final defense CANNOT occur in the same semester.*

Should the student not complete the project in the two enrollment periods, s/he is required to enroll for one (1) semester hour of credit each term until the project has been completed. The candidate must be enrolled in XXX 698 for at least one (1) semester hour of credit in the academic session in which the degree is awarded.

## **8.3. Grades for XXX 598 Directed Project Research**

Performance in any XXX 598 Directed Project course is graded using the following scale:

- Pass – used where the student has met or exceeded requirements
- No Pass – used where the student has not met requirements and has not invested appropriate amounts of effort
- Incomplete – used where the student has invested appropriate amounts of satisfactory effort but the project is not yet finished

## **8.4. Grades for XXX 698 Thesis Research**

Performance in any XXX 698 Thesis Research course is graded using the following scale:

- Satisfactory – used where the student has met or exceeded requirements for satisfactory progress.
- Unsatisfactory – used where the student has not met requirements and has not invested appropriate amounts of effort.
- Incomplete – used where the student has invested appropriate amounts of satisfactory effort but the project is not yet finished.

## **8.5. Directed Project or Thesis Proposal Defense**

Once the directed project or thesis proposal has been completed (the proposal typically includes the first three chapters of the thesis, or the first three major sections in the directed project), the student works with the graduate chair to establish a meeting of the graduate advisory committee for defense and approval of the proposal. Typically the student does a 20 to 30 minute presentation, with sufficient time left to answer questions.

Once the proposal is approved by the committee, a copy of the Polytechnic Form 2 (signed by all committee members and the graduate student) and the final proposal are deposited in the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office. See Appendix E for an example of the Polytechnic Form 2.

***NOTE:** The proposal defense and the final defense of either the thesis or directed project CANNOT occur in the same semester. The proposal defense meeting must be scheduled two (2) weeks in advance of the date of the proposal defense. The proposal must also be provided to the committee two (2) weeks in advance of the date of the proposal defense.*

### **8.6. APA and Formatting Requirements for Directed Projects and Theses**

Theses in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute follow the university guidelines for formatting. Generally the formatting is aligned with the APA parenthetical citation format with some specific additions. Directed projects in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute generally follow the same format, however at the discretion of the chair of the student's directed project committee, the student may be directed to use a different format.

Theses and directed projects (for both proposals and final documentation) should utilize the document templates provided by the university and/or college. Templates for Word 2010 and Latex exist. Templates are provided on the following two URLs:

- University Templates (for Word):  
<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html>
- Polytechnic Template (for Latex):  
<https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/LaTeX%20Thesis%20Template%281%29.zip>

***NOTE:** The Microsoft Word template is available via the university's web site. Those students wanting to use Latex should use the template provided on the Polytechnic web site.*

- Purdue University are providing free Overleaf Pro accounts for students, faculty and staff who would like to use a collaborative, online LaTeX editor for their project. Start sign up for Purdue Overleaf at the link below.  
<https://www.overleaf.com/edu/purdue#!overview>

Overleaf is designed to make the process of writing, editing and producing your research papers and project reports much quicker for both you and your collaborators. Overleaf can be linked to other services such as Mendeley, Git and Plot.ly to best fit into your workflow.

Most students use the Microsoft Word templates as the basis for formatting their proposals and final documentation. The templates include styles for heading elements, tables, figures, captions, et cetera. It is recommended that students use the templates for formatting their proposals and final documents.

### 8.6.1. Notes about the Templates

The following lists some things to note about using the templates and formatting in general:

- In the required course TECH 64600, students will be familiarized with the templates and use them to generate their projects in the course. Most students take TECH 64600 in the same semester that they intend to defend their proposal.
- The University template will not automatically format all elements as needed within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute. Specific elements such as: figure captions, table captions, table verticals, table of contents, and list of tables and figures will require some manual adjustments to get them to format correctly.
- All students who do a thesis will be required to have a thesis format meeting prior to their final oral defense of their thesis. The Polytechnic Thesis Format Advisor is willing to meet with any student who needs an introduction to the thesis templates prior to the creation of their proposal. Students may email the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor to set up a meeting or to get examples of prior formatted theses.
- The Graduate School at Purdue typically hosts workshops on the use of the thesis templates each semester. Consult the Graduate School web site for the dates and times of these workshops.
- Students who are doing a directed project and have been directed to use the APA parenthetical citation format should use the thesis template. The only differences or changes that a directed project student will need to make is:
  - Replace the thesis cover page with the directed project cover page (see section 8.7.1 for more information).
  - Change the major heads (i.e., first level headings) from “Chapter” to “Section”. One may also need to change the major heading names (e.g., change “ABSTRACT” to “EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.”)
- Other specifics of the format can be seen in an example document that can be used as a guide for formatting theses and dissertations ([https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/mohler\\_dissertation.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/mohler_dissertation.pdf)).

### 8.7. Preparing Directed Project and Thesis Proposals

Generally each proposal has similar sections, but the order of the sections may vary as every individual and every proposed project is unique. The exact approach that the student takes is ultimately at the discretion of the major professor (advisor) and the student’s graduate committee.

Proposals must be succinct and direct. Clear, jargon-free prose that establishes the need for the study and a proposed method of solution are required—nothing more (or less). While POLYTECHNIC faculty have not established specific proposal length requirements, a proposal should be sufficiently detailed to enable the graduate committee to render effective judgment and share appropriate advice on how to proceed. Typically,

proposals are 30-50 pages (including figures, tables, and references but not counting appendices) to communicate essential detail.

Beyond content, there are two important factors in the writing of any professional paper, be it a proposal or a final report. One factor is format; the other is style. Format is the physical layout of a paper. Rules for indention, type face, line length, etc., are considered format issues. Style requirements are created to facilitate clear communication. Globally, style indicates the manner of expression and the sequence in which material is organized. At a micro level, style concerns formality, person, tense, spelling, and abbreviation standards. Both format and style are important, and both have their place. Most publication manuals include both style and format guidelines.

Proposals are always written in future tense. Thus, statements that refer to procedures should be stated as, "This proposed study will collect data using . . ." or "Results of this study will be used to . . ." Similarly, Purdue Polytechnic Institute standards recommend that the proposal be written in third person. However, depending on the type of work being executed, first person writing may be acceptable. For example, most quantitative research projects use third person. Most qualitative research projects use first person. Students should consult with their graduate chair and discuss which is appropriate based upon the direction of their research and the methodology they intent to employ.

### **8.8. Directed Project and Thesis Proposal Contents**

The following sections provide an overview of the major parts of a directed project or thesis proposal.

#### **8.8.1. Directed Project Cover Page**

The cover page must follow the format shown in the sample in Appendix F. This format includes spaces for each advisor to sign and date the proposal. The original signed proposal must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute following the proposal defense meeting and as soon as it has been signed by all committee members. This original document then becomes the contract for the directed project. Students must also submit Polytechnic Form 2: Acceptance of Graduate Proposal (see Appendix E).

**NOTE:** *The same format is used for the directed project's final report cover. Cover pages are available from the Graduate Studies web site at: <https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/graduate-forms-for-faculty-and-staff>.*

Committee member information should be entered using the first name, middle initial, and last name. Do not use academic or degree titles such as Professor, Dr., etc., before the name. List the major professor (committee chairperson) first, the second person from the primary area next, and then each related area advisor. The committee member's relationship to the plan of study should be listed below his/her name. Thus, if the primary area on the plan of study is listed as "Technology", the committee

chairperson (major professor) and the second person from the primary area would be listed as follows.

Susan P. Jones, Chair  
Technology

Fred Ross  
Technology

If the plan of study included two related areas titled "Communications" and "Applied Computing", the committee members would be listed as follows.

Alexander G. Bell  
Communications

A. Paul McIntosh  
Applied Computing

### **8.8.2. Thesis Cover Page**

The thesis cover page is established based upon the University formatting guidelines. Appendix G shows an example of the thesis cover page. Note that the thesis and dissertation use the same page format. The thesis template (if macros are turned on) will allow the user to select the appropriate elements from a drop down list. Students should fill in the thesis title (in all caps), type (Thesis), name, and graduate month and year of the thesis cover page.

Unlike the directed project cover sheet, the thesis cover sheet does not have places for the graduate committee members to sign. Nevertheless, once the thesis proposal is approved, like the directed project proposal the thesis proposal is filed with the Office of Graduate Studies in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute following the proposal defense meeting. This original document then becomes the contract for the thesis. Students must also submit Polytechnic Form 2: Acceptance of Graduate Proposal (see Appendix E).

### **8.8.3. Definitions**

Definitions must be included in a proposal whenever it is necessary to inform the reader of the unique way in which the terms are to be used in the proposed research. For example, if learning is to be defined as "a change in behavior", both the entering and terminal behaviors must be defined. But, when terms are used in standard ways, it is not necessary to include the definitions.

An important issue to remember related to definitions is that each definition should have an associated citation. The students use (and definition) of terms should be based upon the academic or industrial literature. As such, because definitions usually use the words of others, most definitions are typically directly quoted source material. When this is the case, the citation should include source, date, as well as page number where the material occurs.

Definition lists usually also include acronyms and abbreviations. Be sure to spell out all acronyms or abbreviations not only in the definitions list, but also in the first instance of their use in the body text of the proposal. The sample paragraph below is what you should NOT do.

What would happen if the president of the BBB requested the assistance of the FTC in order to convince the DOC that it should investigate the effect of WSJ interference with NAFTA signatories regarding concerns about the impact of UL standards on GATT?

The preceding paragraph demonstrates the inappropriate and excessive use of acronyms. If acronyms are used to reduce volume/repetition in a proposal, convention requires the term to be spelled out in full the first time it is used and then followed by the acronym in parentheses. Thereafter, the acronym may be used in lieu of the full term. Even when spelled out on first use, abbreviations or acronyms should appear in the definition list.

**NOTE: The thesis template provides a section for the definitions and acronyms in the front of the template (before the abstract).**

#### **8.8.4. The Executive Summary/Abstract**

The student must prepare a one (maximum) page abstract that succinctly describes the proposed problem to be addressed, purpose for the study, the significance of the proposed study, an overview of the proposed methods to be employed and of the anticipated deliverables. Typically this section is less than 400 words. For the directed project it is called an executive summary. For a thesis, it is called an abstract.

#### **8.8.5. Introduction**

The form of the introduction will vary with the nature of the proposed project, however it usually does not have a heading. Typically it ranges from one to two pages in length. It is important to remember that this is the sole chance to establish a frame of reference in the reader's mind. Appropriate introductions are brief and designed to establish the need for a study. There is no "right way" to write an introduction. There are, however, several possible ways to craft an introduction that will accomplish its intended goal. One common method is to identify the problem in a global way (without specifics). This approach creates an overall frame of reference that makes it much easier for the reader to focus on the more detailed portions of the proposal.

#### **8.8.6. Statement of the Problem**

There is no section of a proposal that gives beginning proposal writers more challenge than the "Statement of the Problem" section. Too often early drafts present either a restatement of the introduction, a detailed description of the methods to be used, or a suggested solution. None of these are appropriate statements of the problem. A problem is something that is wrong. Therefore, the statement of the problem is merely a brief description of what is wrong, written in specific enough terms that the reader can

see the problem and not simply a problem space. One test of the quality of a problem statement is always, "Could the problem be recognized if the statement were being read for the first time?"

#### **8.8.7. Research Question/Hypotheses**

Once the statement of the problem is generated, where applicable, the research question and hypotheses follow. The research question is a testable statement of the problem. For example, maybe the statement of the problem acknowledges that a new method of learning is needed within a particular class. The research question would then be phrased, "What is the effect of learning technique X on scores in class Y?" This statement would be used to generate hypotheses that could then be tested statistically.

Another example might be that a new algorithm is needed to solve a problem on in some computer domain. The research question might be, "Can an algorithm be developed to solve computer security in educational environments?" In this example, rather than statistics being used, the student might create the algorithm, test it, to see if it works or does not work under certain conditions.

A final example might be that company X needs to solve a workflow issue in a manufacturing process. The research question might be, "Can software X be used to make the workflow in company ABC more efficient and effective?" In this example, maybe the student will implement the software and then report on the effect related to efficiency and effectiveness.

While these are merely examples (and should not be assumed to fully define the wide range of technology theses or directed projects), nearly all projects should have a defined research question that is derived from the statement of the problem. Such a question should also be testable. Whether a thesis or directed project has hypotheses will depend on the type of research being conducted (quantitative or qualitative).

#### **8.8.8. Significance of the Problem**

Once the problem has been stated, the significance of the problem must be established. The significance section should be drafted in a manner that removes any question of the importance of the proposed study. This is the part of the proposal in which the proposed project can be tied to the student's overall plan of study and career goals. Generally, this section should "sell" the project as being worthy of doing in the business/industry and/or academic/disciplinary context. Often students will also deal with how or why this is important beyond the confines of Purdue. What contribution will be made to industry, academia or the world at large as a result?

One of the effective methods of strengthening this section is to highlight key citations from credible sources that indicate that the problem is real and that things would be better if it were solved. However, this should not be overdone. Selection of two or three major supporting pieces of literature is sufficient.



### **8.8.9. Statement of the Purpose/Scope**

Once the problem and its significance have been stated, the purpose of the project must be described. Here is where the student indicates what they propose to do about the problem, that is, what part of it they wish to address and what the deliverables of their work will be. Often this section will also be used to define and limit (generally) the scope of the project. Typically the nouns and verbs that are a part of the statement of the problem or research question will be clarified and bounded. Later in the proposal the assumptions, limitations and delimitations provide further insight related to the scope and outline specific details related to scope limitation.

### **8.8.10. Assumptions**

Every study requires some assumptions; they will vary with the type of problem. Typically assumptions are things that could affect the results of the project, but are beyond the researcher's control. For example, one assumption could be that all members of the group being studied know Windows-based operating systems. Another assumption may be that employees will be willing to participate in the training exercise being proposed. Assumptions, of course, must be established as part of the proposal writing stage and they must be approved by the major professor and committee.

### **8.8.11. Limitations**

Limitations are descriptions of potential weaknesses of a study. If the student knows about these at the time of generating the proposal they are advised to reveal them explicitly in advance. Often, however, in addition to any weaknesses known in advance of conducting a project, some invariably arise during the course of project execution. When this occurs, these new limitations are to be added to the limitations section of the final project report and they must be taken into account when discussing the project conclusions.

***NOTE:** The approved proposal is the contract for the study. If the proposal were ambiguous about its limits, the student could be required to gather further information to fill in missing gaps. It is very important to outline limitations in the proposal as they often assist in making sure committee expectations and student expectations match.*

### **8.8.12. Delimitations**

Delimitations are restrictions in the scope of a project, that is, specific statements about things that you will NOT address. There are always constraining factors in a study. This is particularly true of projects in which time, money, and other resources are limited to those that the individual student can bring to the study.

A delimitation is a factor that will narrow the scope of the study being proposed. This is a factor that is known about before the study is performed. For example, one delimitation may be that time does not allow a follow-up after the initial treatment or evaluation. Will the study be limited to a single facility of Corporation X, or will it be conducted at multiple sites? Clearly, a multiple-site study is more generalizable than a

study at a single location. However students must strike appropriate balance between generalizability and resource limits.

**NOTE:** *Delimitations are distinctly different from limitations. A limitation is a potential weakness in a study. A delimitation is a specific, conscious limit in scope. Limits affect inference; delimits affect breadth of study.*

### **8.8.13. Literature/Prior Work/Review of Literature**

The review of literature serves several important functions. First, it is a method to indicate that the problem is more universal than the specific proposal. Second, it serves as a justification for the proposed study in that others have addressed related problems. Third, it positions the work in the field giving context to what has and has not been done and where this project/thesis is positioned therein. Fourth, it identifies possible methods for the conduct of the study by identifying possible data collection strategies, statistical procedures, or sources of other procedural information.

There are three principle justifications for additional investigation of a problem. One justification is that there are plausible alternative hypotheses to conclusions reported in existing studies. That is, there may be another possible variable that is influencing the results of existing studies. The second reason for proposing a new study is to determine if the reported study can be duplicated (replicated) in a new environment. A third reason for conducting a study accounts for the introduction of new data or procedures that have become available. In this case, the review of literature serves to demonstrate that no examples of the use of new techniques could be found.

Typically review of the literature sections include some appropriate description of four sections:

- A description of the problem and its significance
- A description of the methodology and terms employed to conduct the review of the literature itself
- A description of the literature pertinent to choices of data collection and analysis
- A summary of the review of the literature section

For the purposes of a proposal, the review of literature should focus on the key studies. These cannot be determined without extensive review of the literature prior to the preparation of the proposal. The review must be sufficiently extensive to insure that all sides of an issue have been researched and that a balanced evaluation of the problem area has been accomplished. Only the most germane or seminal studies should be included.

Committee members will typically ask discipline- and literature-based questions regarding the problem, significance, purpose and procedure sections. While it is imperative that the proposal's literature review be summarized, it is equally important that extensive literature review be done before undertaking the writing of the proposal. It is infinitely easier to do a thorough research review prior to the writing of the proposal for another reason: the more the problem is studied, the more possible solutions will be

discovered. Also, it should be noted that reviewing of the literature does not cease after a proposal is accepted. Typically, effective researchers/developers continue to review the most pertinent literature throughout their conduct of the study. Subsequently, all appropriate literature will be integrated into the final report/thesis, so the time and effort will not be lost.

The review should generally concentrate on the current literature. For example, if the student is interested in a "Hawthorne effect" study, reference to the original work is only appropriate in a historical context. Failure to review the current literature can fatally flaw the proposal. A study that has recently been conducted may inadvertently be proposed.

#### **8.8.14. Procedures/Methodology**

All procedures to be used in the proposed study should be defined. Whenever possible, the proposed procedure should be justified by reference to other published studies that were used and recommend the steps defined. This will insure that the advisory committee understands the steps the student wishes to take and establishes those steps as appropriate in other published studies.

Directed projects and theses in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute typically include the creation of something and an assessment of it. The "something" might be an intervention to be used on humans, an apparatus, a new process, a new technology and so forth. However, this alone is not sufficient for a directed project or thesis. The thing created must also be assessed or evaluated. This assessment could be a physical test (such as testing the new thing to see how it performs), a statistical test (such as comparing measures before and after and executing statistics on it to evaluate how it performs).

Most directed projects and theses can be classified along multiple dimensions as to the type of research being done. Projects can fall in to the following classifications:

- Quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods
- Clinical or technical
- Human subjects or "things and stuff"
- Theoretical or applied

The important thing to note about research in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute is that there is not one type or only one class of research. Research in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute is as varied as the physical attributes of the students who choose to pursue their degree within it.

#### **8.8.15. Time Action Plan**

A time action plan establishes the time frame in which the conduct of the proposed study will occur. This is typically only required in directed project proposals. This section is vital when there are strict time constraints on data collection or other factors affecting the conduct of the study. This plan also helps communicate the student's proposed time allocation for each major component of the project. Many proposed



|   |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |
|---|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| edits   |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |
| Submit final directed project report to POLYTECHNIC Graduate Studies Office |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |        |       |
|   | Sep 1 | Sep 14 | Oct 1 | Oct 14 | Nov 1 | Nov 14 | Dec 1 | Dec 14 | Jan 1 | Jan 14 | Feb 1 | Feb 14 | Mar 1 | Mar 14 | Apr 1 | Apr 14 | May 1 |

(Note: Individual procedures vary, so the above activities should not be considered complete.)

*Figure 8.1.* An example GANT chart, which is a commonly used vehicle for planning in directed project and thesis proposals.

### **8.10. Preparing the Final Directed Project Report**

The directed project final report uses the project proposal as its foundation. During the proposal development process, a procedure was evolved that should have been followed to conduct the project. The final report now describes what exactly was done, and what the findings and conclusions are. Any deviations from the proposal must also be noted and justified.

The tense found in the proposal is changed from future (what is planned) to past (what was done) when converting the proposal document into the final report. The information contained is not changed, however. Variations between what was planned and what actually occurred will be contained in one of several new sections as part of the final report.

#### **8.10.1. Final Report Contents**

The final report will typically retain the following sections of the proposal:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) Cover page  | 11) Significance of the Problem                  |
| 2) Polytechnic Form 3: Research Integrity and Copyright Disclaimer | 12) Scope of the Study                           |
| 3) Copyright & Dedication (optional)                               | 13) Purpose of the Study                         |
| 4) Acknowledgements  | 14) Research Question/Hypotheses (if applicable) |
| 5) Table of Contents   | 15) Assumptions, Limitations & Delimitations     |
| 6) List of Tables  | 16) Review of literature                         |
| 7) List of Figures   | 17) Procedures                                   |
| 8) Definitions/Acronyms  | 18) References                                   |
| 9) Executive summary   |  |
| 10) Statement of the Problem                                       |  |

**NOTE:** *The Time Action Plan of the proposal is not included in the final report.*

The following sections are added to the original proposal items (see section 8.10.3 thru 8.10.5):

- 1) Limitations (expanded)

- 2) Findings
- 3) Conclusions
- 4) Discussion
- 5) Recommendations (for implementation and/or further research/work)
- 6) Implications (if appropriate)

Thus, the final directed project report is typically structured as follows:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) Cover page                                   | 10) Assumptions, Limitations & Delimitations       |
| 2) Abstract                                     | 11) Review of literature                           |
| 3) Introduction                                 | 12) Procedures (instrumentation & data collection) |
| 4) Statement of the Problem                     | 13) Data or Findings                               |
| 5) Significance of the Problem                  | 14) Conclusions, discussions, and recommendations  |
| 6) Scope of the Study                           | 15) References                                     |
| 7) Purpose of the Study                         | 16) Appendices (as required)                       |
| 8) Research Question/Hypotheses (if applicable) |  |
| 9) Definitions                                  |  |

### **8.10.2. Delimitations and Limitations**

During the proposal process, the delimiting factors were noted. These are variables or dimensions used to restrict the scope of the project, that is, to clarify what will be excluded from consideration in a given study.

Limitations, on the other hand, are factors that potentially weaken a study or that reduce its generalizability. Generally, these are factors that are out of the control of the researcher or are mistakes that occurred and could not be corrected. Occasionally these are known at the time of the proposal but more frequently they arise only during the conduct of the actual project/study.

For example, if one planned to survey a particular segment of a population, e.g., new students at Purdue, this would be a delimitation. On the other hand, if this survey's response rate was only 13% and if it could not be raised by any methods, this would cast doubts on the reliability and validity of the survey data. Since this occurred during the performance of the project, it was an unanticipated factor that results in a significant weakness in the project. It will be up to the committee members to decide whether the overall project was conducted well enough to be acceptable or whether the limitation is so serious that it renders the study unacceptable. Academic integrity and the student's commitment to ethical principles require the presentation of all known limitations regardless of possible consequences.

### **8.10.3. Findings**

In this section, the results of the project are reported and discussed. When reporting findings, simply report factual information. This might be test scores, changes

observed in lab performance, etc. If useful, these findings can be followed by discussion that interprets or explains the significance of the findings.

Students are reminded that the directed project is the capstone of the master's degree program. Regardless of the data analysis outcomes of the project, it is a success. Often there is a preconceived notion of what the results should be. What is important is what the results really are. Important information can be obtained from any project, even if the results are not what were expected.

#### **8.10.4. Conclusions, Discussion, and Recommendations**

Based on the findings obtained, conclusions can be drawn. Such conclusions must always be interpreted and considered within the context established by the study's delimitations and limitations. Often conclusions are made in relation to the research question and/or hypotheses. Alternatively, one can link the conclusions to key findings from the literature review. Either way, the conclusions form the basis for the final evaluation of the project. Once the conclusions are drawn and the effect of the study determined, final recommendations for further work and or research may be made.

For example, assume that a new laboratory activity is developed. This activity was implemented in one laboratory section. During post-testing, the laboratory scores were higher in the section that utilized the activity. However, the activity required twice as much laboratory, compared to the normal activities. It might be concluded that the instruction was effective, as evidenced by the test scores. A recommendation might be that the instruction should take less time. A second recommendation might be to track students who received this instruction and note if improvement in related areas was found, compared to students who did not receive the special instruction.

#### **8.11. Preparing the Final Thesis**

Students must become very familiar with the Purdue Graduate School's Thesis Manual and template even before they begin writing the final thesis. It is good practice for the student and their major professor to confer and agree on an initial outline for their thesis. Furthermore, to make it easier to establish consistency throughout their document, students are advised to also become comfortable with the paragraph heading style and outlining features of their word processor.

***NOTE:** Color figures may be used within the thesis.*

***NOTE:** If a thesis is greater than 350 pages, it must be separated into two volumes. Consult with the Graduate School for how this is done.*

##### **8.11.1. Final Thesis Contents**

The exact structure of a thesis is subject to committee approved adaptations as long as the resulting document still meets the Graduate School's requirements as outlined in the Thesis Manual. The typical thesis consists of five chapters that are supplemented by some preliminary and appendix materials as shown in the outline below:

- Cover Page
- Copyright & Dedication (Optional)
- Acknowledgements
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures
- Definitions/Acronyms
- Abstract
- Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Statement of the Problem
  - Significance of the Problem
  - Scope of the Study
  - Purpose of the Study
  - Research Question/Hypotheses (if applicable)
  - Assumptions, Limitations & Delimitations
  - Summary
- Chapter 2: Review of the Literature
- Chapter 3: Procedures and Data Collection
 

The outline of this chapter is highly variable, but typically it includes sections describing:

  - The methods employed to conduct the study
  - Justification for selection of the chosen methods
  - Instrument and data collection process development and validation
  - Description of the data collection
- Chapter 4: Presentation of Data & Findings
  - The outline of this chapter is highly variable, but typically it includes sections describing:
    - Description of data conditioning and analyses
    - Presentation of the data
    - Discussion as needed
- Chapter 5: Conclusions, Discussion and Recommendations
  - Conclusions
  - Discussion
  - Recommendations
  - Summary
- List of References
- Appendices
- Vita

### **8.11.2. Chapter 4: Presentation of the Data and Findings**

Chapter 4 of the thesis provides a presentation of the data. Typically chapter 4 does not include interpretations or conclusions; it simply presents the facts of what the data say. In quantitative research, this may be elaboration on the results of statistical tests, or the results of tests of an apparatus or new device. In qualitative research, this chapter typically presents the narratives from interviews, raw documents or other artifacts



discovered. Interpretation of what the data mean, that is, conclusions made from the data are typically reserved for chapter 5 of the thesis.

### **8.11.3. Chapter 5: Conclusions, Discussion, and Recommendations**

Chapter 5 of the thesis focuses on the conclusions that can be drawn from the data, as well as discussion (where the conclusions are typically tied back or compared to the literature in the field and the existing findings in the field). At the end of this chapter are recommendations; usually this is a discussion of parts of the thesis that could be expanded to form entire studies in their own right. Recommendation may also include things the researcher would have done differently in the current study.

There are different ways to structure chapter 5. Sometimes the writer will take each research question and its associated hypotheses and deal with them in turn (in the conclusions). At other times, other structures can be used. Ultimately, chapter 4 and 5 should be written as dictated by the research, the researcher, and the graduate committee.

***NOTE:** There are times when a thesis might have more than five chapters. Depending on the scope or breadth of the study, more chapters may be necessary. Typically chapters 1 thru 3 are standardized in the contents they contain. However subsequent chapters vary in title and contents depending on the research being conducted.*

### **8.11.4. Appendices**

The appendices of a thesis are used to provide supporting materials to the work. There is no set number of appendices, nor is there a common structure. Related to structure, appendices are usually ordered in the manner in which they are referenced in the body of the material (and, indeed, all appendices should be referenced in the text body that occurs in the chapters). Some examples of items that might be included in the appendix of a thesis include:

- IRB or other approval documents that establish the ability to conduct the research or conduct it in a legal manor.
- Tests, surveys, or other instruments used in the study (if not copyrighted).
- Examples of code, programs or images used in the study.
- Transcripts of interviews, focus groups or other qualitative data.
- Raw quantitative data gathered during the study.

***NOTE:** With anything included in the thesis, the writer must insure that they maintain anonymity (where applicable) and do not break copyright agreements (for example, most tests are copyrighted).*

With all of these items, the goal is to provide enough detail in the thesis that someone else could take the thesis and replicate it.

## **SECTION 9.0. CERTIFICATIONS, PUBLICATIONS & INTEGRITY**

The following sections provide information about certifications (FERPA, IRB, CITI, etc.) and resources available at Purdue. Information about research integrity, plagiarism and copyrights conclude this section of the handbook.

### **9.1. Certifications & Approvals**

To be able access student information and to conduct research at Purdue University requires that faculty and students alike be certified in specific ways. Accessing student information requires FERPA certification. To conduct research requires CITI certification and IRB approval (when human subjects are involved). The following sections provide more information about these items.

#### **9.1.1. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

To be able to access student information via Purdue's various computer systems (such as myPurdue), faculty and students must be aware of certain legal issues associated with such data. FERPA protects and makes confidential student information beyond basic "directory information" about the student.

***NOTE:** Purdue University's official FERPA policy is available here in Policy VIII.A.4: <http://www.purdue.edu/policies/records/viia4.html>.*

Purdue University requires that faculty and students who have a justifiable need to access student information be trained and certified. Faculty and students can become FERPA certified by accessing:

<http://www.purdue.edu/registrar/FERPA/certification.html>

#### **9.1.2. Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Certification**

The CITI Program is a subscription service providing research ethics education to all members of the research community. Purdue University uses this system to certify faculty and graduate students to conduct research. Of particular importance, researchers involved in the use of human subjects are required to complete the CITI web-based education program in order to be certified as eligible to engage in human subject research at Purdue University. All researchers on an IRB protocol must complete the CITI training before the IRB protocol will be approved. To become CITI certified, faculty and students should create an account at <https://www.citiprogram.org/> and then go through the required training modules. Graduate students who serve as collaborators on research are also required to pass CITI certification.

#### **9.1.3. Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval**

The IRB is a unit of the Human Research Protection Program (HRPP), which is housed within the Office of Research Administration (ORA), located in room 300 Hovde Hall.

***NOTE:** The IRB is an extension of the Office of the Vice President for Research (<http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/>). Faculty and graduate researchers should become familiar with the wealth of information available on the VPR's web site.*

The IRB website provides detailed steps, forms, and example IRB proposals for all Purdue University faculty and students conducting human subjects' research. Researchers need to obtain permission to conduct any studies at Purdue University by submitting IRB proposals and completing certain workshops and online training protocols (see CITI Certification above).

## **9.2. Resources**

The following sections acknowledge important resources provided by various units across campus.

***NOTE:** The Vice President for Research provides a handbook titled, *Research Handbook: A Guide to the Grants Process at Purdue University*, located at:*  
<https://www.purdue.edu/research/funding-and-grant-writing/overview.php>

### **9.2.1. Research Oversight**

The Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) provides much information for faculty and students concerning issues pertaining to research. The VPR provides research oversight concerning Export Control (transport of commodities, software, technical data and certain other information to foreign countries), use of controlled substances for research purposes, use of radiation/lasers, use of biologically hazardous materials, use of animals as well as research involving humans. Faculty and students should be aware of the information available, particular if their research includes any of these or if they are traveling abroad (<http://www.purdue.edu/research/research-compliance/export-control/overview.php>).

### **9.2.2. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)**

The RCR is a joint program between the Graduate School and the Office for the Vice President for Research. This program provides workshops, online training and tutorials, as well as assists in setting policy relative to the conduct of research at Purdue University. More information about the RCR is available at:  
<http://www.purdue.edu/GRADSCHOOL/research/rcr/index.html>.

### **9.2.3. Purdue University Psychometric Instruction/Investigation Laboratory (PUPIL)**

Purdue University Psychometric Instruction/Investigation Laboratory (PUPIL) Consulting Service, located in BRNG 3157 (phone: 496-3233), is available to respond to and provide resources for questions involving measurement/assessment, psychometrics,

and educational and behavioral sciences empirical research.

#### **9.2.4. Statistical Consulting Service (SCS)**

The Department of Statistics provides statistical software and design consulting services for the University community – free of charge. The Statistical Consulting Service can help with statistical software problems and data analysis issues. *Statistical Software Consulting* provides assistance with the set up and running of a wide variety of statistical computing programs, including SAS, SPSS, Minitab and S-Plus. Software consulting is available in MATH G175 on a drop-in basis. *Experimental Design and Data Analysis Consulting* is available during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Services include assistance with all phases of research projects: proposal preparation, design of studies, survey design, data input strategies, data import/export, analysis of data, interpretation of results, presentation of results, and other statistics or probability problems. More information is available at: <http://www.stat.purdue.edu/scs/>.

#### **9.2.5. Center for Instructional Excellence (CIE)**

The CIE provides valuable teaching resources (and teaching scholarship resources) to faculty. Graduate student TAs can obtain various certificates by completing a series of free workshops and seminars. The certificates include: Graduate Teaching Certificate (GTC), Graduate Teacher Certificate Alternative, Advanced Graduate Teacher Certificate (AGTC), Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFFP), and the Graduate Teacher Technology Certificate (GT2C). In addition, the website provides teaching tips, teaching consultation, and information about instructional data processing (e.g., test scoring and page scanning services). More information is available at: <http://www.cie.purdue.edu/>.

#### **9.2.6. Sponsored Programs Services (SPS)**

SPS assists Purdue's faculty, staff, and students in securing and managing sponsored program support, and in delivering maximum public benefit from sponsored projects. SPS manages the process of proposal submission, award management, reporting and various contracts that may result from a sponsored award. For more information about SPS and their services, see <http://www.purdue.edu/sps/>.

#### **9.2.7. Discovery Park**

Discovery Park, located adjacent to campus, is a collection of large-scale centers that lead Purdue's interdisciplinary research efforts. Some of these centers include Bindley Bioscience Center, Birck Nanotechnology Center and Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship. There are various ways in which graduate students can engage Discovery Park. For more information, see <http://www.purdue.edu/dp/>.

#### **9.2.8. Purdue Research Foundation (PRF)**

PRF is a nonprofit foundation that 1) manages gifts, bequests and endowments; 2) makes funding available to faculty, staff and students to aid in scientific investigation, research or educational studies; 3) acquires, constructs and improves Purdue's facilities, grounds and equipment; and 4) manages intellectual property developed at Purdue. More information about PRF is available at: <http://www.prf.org/>.

#### 9.2.8.1. PRF Research Parks

The Purdue Research Parks are the result of Purdue University's commitment to spur economic growth in Indiana's high-tech sector. Under development since the late '90s by the Purdue Research Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation created to assist Purdue, the parks are focused on companies operating in the arenas of life sciences, homeland security, engineering, advanced manufacturing and information technology. More information about the PRF Research Parks is available at: <http://www.purdueresearchpark.com/about/>.

#### 9.2.8.2. Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC)

The Purdue Research Foundation's Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) operates one of the most comprehensive technology transfer programs among leading research universities in the United States. Services provided by this office support the economic development initiatives of Purdue University and benefit the university's academic activities.

Purdue's intellectual property is an asset that Purdue strives hard to protect, market and license. OTC works hand-in-hand with Purdue faculty-, staff- and student-entrepreneurs to provide the resources needed to better understand Purdue policies related to intellectual property and the processes whereby this intellectual property (patents, copyright, trademarks, and tangible research property) can become an actual product or service. To ensure the long-term success of the innovations, OTC takes the process one step further – at times – and help Purdue inventors form startup companies complete with investor support and qualified management teams. More information about the OTC is available at: <https://www.prf.org/otc/>.

**NOTE:** All faculty and students should be familiar with Purdue University's policy on intellectual property. See Purdue University's Policy VIII.4.1, Intellectual Property at: [https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/integrity\\_statement.php](https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/integrity_statement.php).

### 9.3. Integrity

Purdue University has a tradition of ethical conduct spanning its history. As a land-grant institution, Purdue demonstrates responsiveness to its constituencies and extends to them access to our knowledge resources. We nurture relationships with other partners in education who support our vision or join us to foster common interests. We integrate our mission with our responsibilities. We contribute our knowledge resources impartially in serving our public purposes. As faculty, students, staff, and administrators, we are a community of dedicated learners, scholars, professionals, and practitioners - all contributing our talents to uphold our standards, and improve ourselves and the broader community in which we live and work. Our responsibilities and obligations toward the advancement of learning, discovery, and engagement in the University and in Indiana extend to our nation and the world. Purdue's statement of integrity is meant to provide an overarching declaration that informs specific policies and procedures regarding conduct, enforcement, and accountability. Such policies and procedures either exist in official

University documents or will be developed as necessary.

*NOTE: Purdue's Statement of Integrity is available at: [http://www.purdue.edu/Purdue/about/integrity\\_statement.html](http://www.purdue.edu/Purdue/about/integrity_statement.html)*

### **9.3.1. Plagiarism, Falsification, and Fabrication**

Purdue University maintains the highest academic and ethical standards research conducted by faculty and graduate students. It is important to note that the university sees the acts of plagiarism, falsification and fabrication as equal as acknowledged by the following university policy on research misconduct:

"Research misconduct" shall mean, for the purposes of this policy, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific and academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data (Excerpt from the *Purdue University Policy on Research Misconduct (VIII.3.1)*).

#### **9.3.1.1. Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is serious violation of research conduct and every researcher, faculty and graduate student needs to be conscious of what it is, and how to avoid it. Plagiarism is to steal or pass off the words, ideas, or intellectual product of another as one's own. It is essentially literary theft as it regards works of a written nature. Plagiarism is typically defined as the use of four or more adjacent words from a specific source.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use:

- Another person's idea, opinion, or theory;
- Any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- Quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or
- Paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

#### **9.3.1.2. Strategies for Avoiding Plagiarism**

The following are some general strategies to avoid unintended plagiarism:

- Put in quotations everything that comes directly from the text, **especially when taking notes**.
- Paraphrase, but be sure you are not just rearranging or replacing a few words (which is conscious plagiarism). Instead, read over what you want to paraphrase carefully; cover up the text with your hand, or close the original source so you can't see any of it (and so aren't tempted to use the text as a "guide"). Write out the idea in your own words without peeking.
- Check your paraphrase against the original text to be sure you have not accidentally used the same phrases or words, and that the information is accurate.

### 9.3.1.3. Guidelines for Quoting and Citing

The following are some guidelines that can be used for determining when to quote and when to cite material from other sources:

- If paraphrasing or writing about the ideas presented by another, citation is necessary (Smith, 2008).
- If using four or more words (even with “permission to use”), quotation and citation is necessary. Quotations over 40 words long should be “blockquoted” as per APA format specifications.
- All quotations require a page number following the quotation or integrated into the citation.
- **If you are in doubt how to give credit, quote and cite the source.**

### 9.3.2. Self-checking for Plagiarism

To assist Purdue faculty and students, the Graduate School, in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Research, has initiated this voluntary self check service called *iThenticate*. The software checks submitted documents against thousands of articles that are published in journals and conference proceedings as well as text that appears on the Web. A similarity report is generated that highlights excerpts in the submitted document that match similar text in documents found in print and on the Web. Similarity reports can be helpful in detecting occurrences of inadvertent replication and neglect in referencing.

#### 9.3.2.1. Rules Governing Usage

*iThenticate* is expressly for use as a tool for checking documents before submission to committees, journals, publishers, and archives, to help students and faculty prevent incidences of unintended plagiarism. The service is free for Purdue faculty and is only for individual use.

Use of the service by students is limited to individual work authored or co-authored by the student for the purpose of screening for potential plagiarism violations prior to submission. The screening service is not to be used for checking the work of others; screening articles of any kind previously submitted for publication; or screening documents of any kind previously submitted for deposit with the Graduate School, for review by an academic committee, or for archiving within the University.

Since the report generated by *iThenticate* only provides citations of language similarity, judgment on the part of the student is often necessary as to whether the submitted text is substantively different from similar text found in the literature. Students are encouraged to seek assistance from their advisors and to consult the Graduate School resources— <http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/index.html>

#### 9.3.2.2. Procedure for iThenticate

It is the goal of the university to grant all faculty at Purdue the ability to use the *iThenticate* system. **Students do not have direct access to the system.** For students to

gain access to the system, they must contact a faculty member and the faculty can process documents on behalf of student and then provide the results.

All Polytechnic faculty have access to the *iThenticate* system. If you have a document you would like to have analyzed, contact your advisor and/or chair and she or he can submit it on your behalf, and provide the results to you. You may also request that your programs Thesis Format Advisor process your document as well. Please note that as part of the Thesis Format Advising Process, all graduate students will have their thesis analyzed in the *iThenticate* system.

***NOTE: The iThenticate system accepts the following file formats: Microsoft Word, searchable pdf, LaTeX, postscript, and plain text. Scanned documents converted to pdf or encapsulated in Word or LaTeX are not acceptable. Also note that you should delete all images from your file before submitting it for processing (so as to reduce file size).***

### **9.3.3. Copyright Issues with Figures**

Figures and images included in a publication can pose significant issues for authors. Generally, any figure that is directly from another source, such as a journal, book, or other publication (including web publications) are copyrighted. Including them within one's publication requires more than just a citation if used directly from the source. If you desire to use an image from another publication or from an online source, the safest course of action is to secure a release to do so. Otherwise, it could be classified as copyright infringement. A secondary method, albeit in certain cases it could still be considered copyright infringement, is to redraw the image. However, in many cases, redrawing or recreating the image is not enough to ensure it is still not a copyright infringement.

A release to use an image can vary from a specific legal document to a simple email. The key element of a release is that the "copyright holder" gives you permission to use the image for your purposes. Yet, determining who the copyright holder is can sometimes be quite difficult. And, often authors do not fully understand what rights they have.

If you want to use an image, the first course of action is to email the author of the source from which the image is being taken. A release from an author needs to include two things:

4. That the author has the right to grant use of the image.
5. That he or she gives permission for the image to be used for your specific purposes.

It is always a good idea, even if an author gives permission, to follow up with the publisher of the source from which the image is taken and ensure a release is not also needed from the publisher.



**As with issues of plagiarism, copyright infringement issues resulting from the illegal use of images is a serious matter. The author should do everything in his or her power to ensure the legitimacy of the use of materials in his or her publications. It is safer to not include an image if you cannot secure appropriate permissions than run the risk of copyright infringement.**

## SECTION 10.0. POST-PROJECT/THESIS ACTIVITIES

The following section outlines the specific tasks and activities that occur once the student has executed and documented her or his thesis or directed project.

### **10.1. Appointment of the Examining Committee & Scheduling the Final Oral Examination (Directed Project/Thesis Defense)**

The examining committee will usually be the same as the student's advisory committee. The major professor and student are jointly responsible for finding a common date, time, and period when all advisory committee members can meet for the final examination and this must occur within the deadlines established by the Graduate School. The graduate student is expected to take initiative to begin this procedure in conjunction with the availability of the chair and graduate committee. Typically the Graduate Coordinator in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute will find appropriate facilities for the meeting. The date, time, period and facilities for the meeting are to be transmitted to the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Studies Office by the student. To establish the committee, date and time for the final oral examination, students file the GS Form 8 (Request for Appointment of Examining Committee) online in myPurdue's Plan of Study Generator (<https://mypurdue.purdue.edu>). **This form is required to be submitted two weeks in advance of the final defense.**

Following the notice of final examination date, the Graduate Coordinator in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute will schedule an appropriate meeting room (equipment other than standard equipment offered by Purdue is the responsibility of the student to arrange).

The day prior to the final examination date, the Graduate Coordinator in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute will forward a file of relevant student records, GEC evaluation forms, and candidate audit forms to the major professor. Following the oral defense, it is the major professor's responsibility to obtain all required committee member signatures on the electronic GS Form 7 (Report of Master's Examining Committee) in advance of the established deadlines.

### **10.2. Declaring Graduation Candidacy**

In the semester that a student intends on defending their thesis or directed project, she or he must declare candidacy as they register for classes. A Form 23 Registration Form is used to declare graduation candidacy (see Appendix J). Online self-registration is not permitted to declare candidacy. Take the completed Form 23 to the Graduate Coordinator in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute, Room 150, Knoy Hall for processing prior to the posted deadline.

***NOTE:*** *In order to be eligible to graduate, an approved Plan of Study must be on file with the Graduate School before the start of the final semester (see Graduation Deadlines Calendar on the Graduate School web page for the deadlines).*

### **10.3 Completing the XXX 598 or XXX 698 Requirement**

At the conclusion of the final oral examination, the major professor and each member of the examining committee will sign the electronic Graduate School Form 7, Report of the Examining Committee form.

***NOTE:** The Graduate School permits NO EXCEPTIONS to its published deadlines. If all degree requirements are not met in the semester in which candidacy is declared, the student must register for one (1) semester hour of XXX 598 or XXX 698 each subsequent semester until all requirements are met.*

If any problems or deficiencies in the report are indicated by the examining committee, these must be corrected before the project or report will be approved by each committee member. In order for graduation to occur during any semester, completion of all required edits/corrections must occur and be approved before the established deadlines.

The last step involves submitting a copy of the approved project report to each of the following: University (if thesis), College, and Graduate Committee. Sections 10.5, 10.6 and 10.7 cover each of these in detail.

### **10.4. Formatting Review for Theses**

Students are required to meet with the Polytechnic Thesis Format Advisor **at least two weeks** before they defend their thesis. The last date to meet with the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor for a thesis formatting appointment is two weeks prior to the last day to defend the thesis. A thesis formatting appointment is mandatory. If you do not meet with the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor and get the appropriate approval signature on the Form 9 (see Appendix K), you **will not graduate** on time.

The Thesis Formatting Review requires the following steps:

1. Scheduling the meeting via the Polytechnic Graduate Coordinator.
2. Submitting an electronic copy of the thesis via email to the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor two days prior to the review meeting for submission to the *iThenticate* plagiarism checking software.
3. Attending the Thesis Formatting Review meeting.

***NOTE:** The Thesis Format Review does not apply to directed projects. Only theses are reviewed for format requirements.*

#### **10.4.1. Formatting**

For theses, the Polytechnic has adopted the APA, parenthetical citation format as implemented by the university.

#### **10.4.2. Formatting Your Thesis**

TECH 646 (a required course for most students) assists the student in developing their proposal and therefore covers how to format the thesis or dissertation. If you are not

required to take that course, the following provides some guidelines you should follow to ensure your thesis or dissertation are acceptably formatted.

- Foremost, students should use the University Microsoft Word thesis template which is available on the graduate school's web site (<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html>). This template has styles included within it to make formatting less cumbersome. The Graduate School also holds seminars on use of the template and following the formatting requirements.

***NOTE:** If your thesis or directed project will include many formulas, you may want to use Latex rather than Microsoft Word. If you use Latex, use the Latex template that is located on the Purdue Polytechnic Institute web site (NOT the one on the university Graduate School web page).*

Note that there are a few things that the template will not do. Even when using the thesis template, students must:

1. Ensure that they do not use vertical lines in tables.
2. Properly format captions for tables and figures (including proper italics for each).
3. Ensure proper tabs for each paragraph and proper hanging indents on references.

Other specifics of the format can be seen in an example document that can be used as a guide for formatting theses and dissertations ([https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/mohler\\_dissertation.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/mohler_dissertation.pdf)).

#### **10.4.3. Scheduling Formatting Appointment**

To make a thesis formatting appointment with the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor you will need to email the Polytechnic Graduate Coordinator. Once your thesis has been approved, you may schedule your defense. It is recommended that you make your appointment early.

#### **10.4.4. Providing an iThenticate Copy**

Two days prior to your scheduled Thesis Advising appointment, you should email the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor a complete copy of your thesis as a single Word or PDF document.

***NOTE:** If your document contains a large number of images, the images should be deleted from the file before providing it to the Thesis Advisor.*

After receiving your document, the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor will submit your electronic document to the *iThenticate* application to verify there is no plagiarism within the document (see Section 9.3.2). At the Thesis Format Advising appointment you will be able to review the results of the plagiarism check as well as receive the electronic results.

**NOTE:** *You should bring a USB drive or other storage media with you to the Thesis Advising appointment so that you may receive a copy of the iThenticate results.*

#### **10.4.5. Attending the Formatting Appointment**

When a student goes to the format meeting, she or he should bring:

1. A 100% complete, unbound printed copy of the thesis.
2. A digital copy on a USB drive.
3. At least one copy of the GS Form 9 for Polytechnic Thesis Format Advisor to sign.

**NOTE:** *It is advised that students have multiple copies of the GS Form 9 for the committee to sign (see section 10.7). Only one copy is required (for university deposit, see section 10.5).*

#### **10.4.6. Thesis Pre-review**

If a student is in doubt whether their document is formatted correctly, they may email a sample from their thesis to the Polytechnic Thesis Format Advisor for review and comment. “Pre-review” meetings are also a possibility but must occur before the sixth (6th) week of each semester.

### **10.5. The Oral Defense of the Thesis or Directed Project**

Once the format review meeting is completed, the student prepares for their final oral defense. At most oral defense meetings, the student conducts a 20 to 30 minute presentation and then the faculty committee is allowed to ask questions. If time permits, guests in the audience may also ask questions, but this is at the discretion of the chair. Students should discuss the final defense meeting with her or his chair in advance to verify the method by which the chair will conduct the meeting.

**NOTE:** *The proposal defense and the final defense of the thesis or directed project CANNOT occur in the same semester. The final defense meeting must be scheduled two (2) weeks in advance of the date of the defense. The final thesis or directed project (or respective proposal) must also be provided to the committee two (2) weeks in advance of the date of its defense.*

In addition to presenting and answering questions relative to the direct project or thesis, the student will need to prepare and bring to the final defense the GS Form 9 and GS Form 32 (see Appendix M). It is advised that students have multiple copies of the GS Form 9 for the committee to sign (see section 10.7). Only one copy is required (for university deposit; see section 10.5).

### **10.6 University Deposit of the Thesis**

Following successful defense of a thesis, students must deposit their thesis with the Graduate School. Information about the university deposit meeting may be found at:

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/thesis/Student-Instructions-Thesis-Acceptance-Form.pdf>. The deposit meeting requires students provide an electronic copy of their thesis, as well as the following completed and signed forms:

- GS Form 9: Thesis Acceptance (see Appendix K)
- GS Form 9 ETD: Electronic Thesis Deposit (see Appendix L)
- GS Form 32: Thesis/Dissertation Agreement, Publication Delay, and Certification/Disclaimer (see Appendix M)

***NOTE:** The graduate chair or the student may desire to hold the thesis in confidentiality status for a certain period of time. Both graduate chair and student must agree on confidentiality status. See the GS Form 32 (Appendix M).*

To schedule a final deposit appointment, access:

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/thesis/Student-Instructions-Thesis-Acceptance-Form.pdf>.

***NOTE:** The Graduate School provides supplementary information about Thesis/Dissertation formatting (<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html>).*

### **10.7. College Deposit of the Thesis or Directed Project**

The Purdue Polytechnic Institute no longer requires a printed and bound copy of the thesis or directed project. The College now requires a digital copy for the Purdue Polytechnic Institute be submitted electronically to the Purdue e-Pubs site. M.S. thesis students will still electronically deposit their thesis with the Graduate School as required, but will now also submit a digital copy for the college to the Purdue e-Pubs site (<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/tech/>).

#### **10.7.1. For Directed Projects**

One copy of the completed and signed Report Cover Page of the directed project (see Appendix F) must be delivered to the Polytechnic Graduate Office in Knoy 150 (refer to the Directed Project Deadlines Calendar on the Polytechnic web site). **The signed Report Cover Page will not be accepted until an electronic copy of the directed project has been submitted to the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Purdue e-Pubs site.**

#### **10.7.2. For Theses**

The final signature on the GS Form 9 (see Appendix K) will be the Head of the Graduate Program. Please see the Polytechnic Graduate Program Coordinator in Knoy 463 to obtain the appropriate signature on the Form 9. After depositing your thesis electronically with the Graduate School, you will then submit the college copy electronically at the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Purdue Libraries e-Pubs site.

**10.7.3. For Assistance with Submitting to the Purdue e-Pubs Site**

A help document for submitting to the Purdue University e-Pubs site is located at: <https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/epubsInst.pdf>.

**10.8. Copies of Final Thesis or Directed Project for Graduate Committee**

After depositing your thesis or directed project with the e-Pub site, it is common practice to provide a copy to each of your committee members. Most faculty prefer a traditionally printed and bound copy of the project, whereas others might prefer a digital/electronic copy. Confer with your chair to determine which he or she prefers. Typically whatever is done for the chair is also done for the rest of the committee. If your chair requests a bound copy, The Purdue University Boiler Copy Center can assist you. Typically faculty request a “case (book) bound” copy. More information about this may be found at: <http://www.purdue.edu/printingservices/>.

**10.9. Additional Requirements for Graduation**

Additional items that M.S. students must complete for graduation include:

- *Graduate School Survey.* All students must complete the Graduate School Exit Survey if they wish to graduate. Students typically receive an email and/or notification in the *myPurdue* system that details how they complete this requirement.
- *Optional Copyright Fee.* If students would like their thesis to be officially registered with the U.S. Copyright Office, they may pay an additional \$65 fee.

**10.10. Participating in Commencement**

All graduating students are encouraged to participate in the university's commencement ceremonies. This is a time justifiably used to reflect on your accomplishments with pride and to share in the success of others, including the faculty, as well. Information pertaining to commencement (dates, attire, etc.) is available via: <http://www.purdue.edu/registrar/>.

## SECTION 11.0. OVERALL MASTER'S DEGREE PROCEDURAL CHECKLIST

To help students progress through their degree requirements, the following checklist will help map a path through the Purdue Polytechnic Institute's Master of Science program. Specific and official deadlines are announced each semester, posted on the Polytechnic Graduate webpage and are also available from the College's Graduate Office. Table 11.1 shows a helpful chart for the M.S. thesis, while Table 11.2 shows a chart for the M.S. directed project.

Table 11.1. *CGT M.S. Thesis Timetable*

| Semester                        | End of the 1 <sup>st</sup>  | End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> | End of the 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | End of the 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Coursework</b>               |   | Complete IT 507            | Complete TECH 646<br><br>Complete TECH 698 (1-3 credits)                                 | Finish Coursework<br><br>Complete TECH 698 (5-3 credits)  |
| <b>Advisor / Committee</b>      | Work with advisor on research area and possible committee members | Establish committee        | Schedule/attend thesis proposal defense meeting  | Schedule/attend thesis defense meeting  |
| <b>Electronic Plan of Study</b> | Create/File draft EPOS  | File Official EPOS         | File EPOS Changes (as necessary)   | File EPOS Changes (as necessary)  |
| <b>Thesis</b>                   | Attend another student's thesis defense                           | Generate research idea     | Thesis Proposal Defense (Chapters 1 – 3 complete)<br><br>IRB or other required approvals | Polytechnic Thesis Advising Appt.<br>Final Thesis Defense<br>GS Thesis Deposit Appt<br>Polytechnic Thesis Deposit (e-Pubs)<br>Committee Deposit |
| <b>Graduation requirements</b>  |   |                            |  | Polytechnic Publication req.<br>Polytechnic Exit Survey<br>GS Exit Survey<br>Cap and Gown Order<br>Attend Graduation                            |



Table 11.2. *CGT M.S. Directed Project Timetable*

| Semester                        | End of the 1 <sup>st</sup>  | End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> | End of the 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | End of the 4 <sup>th</sup>   |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Coursework</b>               |   | Complete IT 507            | Complete TECH 646<br>Complete TECH 598 (1 credit)  | Finish Coursework<br>Complete TECH 598 (2 credits)   |
| <b>Advisor / Committee</b>      | Work with advisor on research area and possible committee members | Establish committee        | Schedule/attend thesis proposal defense meeting  | Schedule/attend thesis defense meeting   |
| <b>Electronic Plan of Study</b> | Create/File draft EPOS  | File Official EPOS         | File EPOS Changes (as necessary)   | File EPOS Changes (as necessary)   |
| <b>Thesis</b>                   | Attend another student's thesis defense                           | Generate research idea     | Thesis Proposal Defense (Sections 1 – 3 complete)<br><br>IRB or other required approvals | Final Thesis Defense   |
| <b>Graduation requirements</b>  |   |                            |  | Polytechnic Publication req.<br>Polytechnic Exit Survey<br>GS Exit Survey<br>Polytechnic Thesis Deposit (e-Pubs)<br>Committee Deposit<br>Cap and Gown Order<br>Attend Graduation |

### 11.1. First Semester

1. If the transcripts submitted with the application for admission were not complete, arrange to have two (2) copies of the final transcript showing receipt of the baccalaureate (Bachelor's) degree sent to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Purdue Polytechnic Institute, 401 N. Grant St., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2021.

*With the help of the major professor:*

2. Discuss your career and educational objectives and, within the framework of the Purdue Polytechnic Institute master's degree, draft a preliminary plan of study. Review the optional Areas of Concentration as you work.
3. Select a master's committee consisting of your Major Professor and at least two graduate faculty members. At least two of your committee members must be regular, Purdue Polytechnic Institute graduate faculty. You may select one or more additional faculty to serve on your master's Committee and in some cases this is clearly advantageous (see section 4.2 and 4.3 of this handbook).
4. Discuss the preliminary plan of study with each of the members of the advisory committee (see section 5.0 of this handbook).
5. Using the Electronic Plan of Study (EPOS) system, submit your draft plan of study to your committee members and the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Office (see section 5.0 of this handbook).

6. Refine the plan of study, if needed, based on the committee's suggestions.
7. Using the Electronic Plan of Study (EPOS) system, submit your final plan of study to your committee members and the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Graduate Office (see section 5.0 of this handbook).
8. Identify a tentative directed project problem area.
9. Register for classes for the next semester following approval of the plan of study (see Section 4.5 of this handbook).

### **11.2. Succeeding Semesters**

1. Register for classes as appropriate for the next semester (see Section 4.5 of this handbook).
2. Register for TECH 64600 (during your second or third semester) and begin planning for your directed project or thesis (see section 8.6 of this handbook).
3. During your third semester at the latest, register for one (1) semester hour of XXX 598 or XXX 698 and begin work on the directed project or thesis proposals (see section 8.1 and 8.2 of this handbook).
4. Schedule a defense meeting for the directed project or thesis proposal (at least two weeks in advance of the meeting). All committee members must be present. Once the committee has approved the proposal, submit the proposal to the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office with the completed Polytechnic Form 2: Acceptance of Graduate Proposal (see section 8.5 of this handbook).
5. After the proposal is approved, begin work on the directed project (2 semester hours of XXX 598, to complete the actual directed project) or thesis (5 semester hours of XXX 698, to complete the actual thesis). (See sections 8.1, 8.2, and 10.3 of this handbook).

### **11.3. Final Semester**

1. Register for any remaining courses on the plan of study (see section 4.5 of this handbook).
2. Insure that any changes in your plan of study have been approved using the Change process within the electronic plan of study generator, located on *myPurdue* (see section 5.0 of this handbook).
3. Check the "Candidate" space on the Form 23 Course Request Form when registering for the semester in which graduation is expected. You must have the Graduate Coordinator enter the candidate information into the *myPurdue* system (see section 10.2 of this handbook).
4. Register for at least one (1) semester hour of XXX 598 or XXX 698 (or the remaining number of hours to bring your total research hours to the minimum required). (See section 10.3 of this handbook).
5. Submit a Request for Examining Committee (GS Form 8) electronically no less than two weeks prior to the exam date (see section 10.1 of this handbook).
6. If a thesis student, schedule Thesis Format Advising meeting with the Polytechnic Thesis Advisor to occur two weeks prior to the final oral examination via the Polytechnic Graduate Coordinator (see section 10.4 of this handbook).

7. If a thesis student, electronically schedule University deposit meeting with the Graduate School (see section 10.6 of this handbook).
8. Satisfy the final oral examination requirement and make any revisions to the thesis or directed project that are required by your committee (see section 10.5 of this handbook).
9. Submit a final copy of your thesis or directed project to the Purdue Library e-Pubs section prior to the deadline established by the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office (see section 10.7 of this handbook).
10. Provide final copies of your thesis or directed project to your chair and graduate committee (see section 10.8 of this handbook).

## **SECTION 12.0. PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING CONTINUATION FROM AN M.S. INTO THE PH.D. IN TECHNOLOGY**

Direct continuation from a master's degree to a doctoral plan of study is a desire of many students pursuing graduate study. Many students who begin a master's degree in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute decide that they wish to continue from their M.S. directly into the Purdue Polytechnic Institute in Ph.D. To ensure that internal "applicants" are qualified and evaluated in a manner consistent with the review of external candidates to the Ph.D. program and to follow university policy, the described policies outline the procedures for requesting continuation to the Doctor of Philosophy in Technology.

### **12.1 Type of Master of Science**

Procedures for students in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Master of Science (and its related concentrations) differ from those required for students in Master of Science programs in the college's departments (specifically, AT, BCM, CIT, CGT, and IT). The following sections describe the procedures of these two types of M.S. students within the Purdue Polytechnic Institute.

It is assumed that regardless of M.S. degree being obtained students wanting to continue to a PhD obtain thesis from their respective M.S. program. Additionally, all students wanting to continue directly from an M.S. to a Ph.D. in Technology should make the decision and begin the respective process outlined below at the beginning of their candidate semester (i.e., the beginning of the semester in which they intend to graduate).

### **12.2 Procedure for Students Pursuing the AT, BCM, CIT, CGT or IT M.S. degrees**

Students pursuing a M.S. degree in AT, BCM, CIT, CGT or IT wishing to continue in the Doctor of Philosophy in Technology program are required to apply to the doctoral program through the Graduate School's Apply Yourself web site. Because departmental M.S. programs are different programs from the college master's, students must apply to the Technology Ph.D. program (even though those departments are within the college).

Thus, these students must provide all requisite application materials and pay the Graduate School application fee. If the GRE was taken for admittance to the respective college departmental M.S. program, the applicant will not be required to take the GRE again. Students should provide a copy of the scores to the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office to be included in their application materials (if the scores are over three years old).

### **12.3 Students Pursuing the M.S. in Technology (or any of its respective concentrations)**

Students who are enrolled in the Master of Science in Technology program are required to complete a Polytechnic Grad Studies Form 4, which records the student's name, major professor, thesis title, M.S. graduation date and cumulative M.S. GPA (see Appendix N). The applicant must also include a copy of their approved M.S. thesis proposal. The Polytechnic GS Form 4 and thesis proposal is routed to the major professor and committee members for signature and positive or negative recommendation for admittance to the Ph.D. program. Finally the department head signs the Polytechnic GS Form 4 and routes it to the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office.

Once received by the Polytechnic Graduate Studies Office, the form is reunited with the applicant's M.S. application materials. This application package is routed to the respective department's Ph.D. review committee for acceptance or denial into the Ph.D. program. If accepted, the Polytechnic Graduate Studies office notifies the Graduate School of the student's acceptance and matriculation into the Purdue Polytechnic Institute Ph.D. program.

**APPENDIX A:****REQUEST FOR REDUCED COURSE LOAD**

(available at <http://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/Docs/Immigration/RCLForm.pdf>)

## Reduced Course Load (RCL) Request Form

**\*\*Do not register for a course load (or drop a course) that will place you in RCL status without first obtaining DSO (Designated School Official) permission. RCL approval may be obtained by completing Sections I & II of this form and then meeting with a DSO in the Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS).**

**RCL Definition:**

- Less than 12 credits hours for international undergraduate students
  - Less than 8 credit hours for international graduate and professional students without a graduate staff appointment or employment-based fellowship
  - Less than 6 credit hours for international graduate and professional students with a graduate staff appointment or employment-based fellowship
- Exception: Students who engage in full-time Curricular Practical Training (CPT), full-time optional practical training (OPT) or academic training (AT) are not required to be registered full-time and do not need to complete this form.

### SECTION I: Student Use Only

Complete items 1 - 5 below and then submit this form to your Academic Advisor (undergraduate students) or Chair of Departmental Graduate Committee (graduate/professional students) to complete Section II.

1. **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **PUID:** \_\_\_\_\_ (10 digit PUID Number)

3. **Semester for which RCL is Requested:** \_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_ Fall Year 20\_\_\_

4. **Reason for RCL Request:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical (must include a letter from a medical professional recommending reduced course load)

\_\_\_\_\_ Improper course placement

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial English language difficulties

\_\_\_\_\_ Initial unfamiliarity with American teaching methods

\_\_\_\_\_ Last semester of a student's academic program (Graduate level students only who will complete all degree requirements during the requested RCL semester need to apply. Undergraduate students can enroll part-time their last semester and do not need to process an RCL form.)

5. **Student Explanation** (attach additional typed sheet, if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

### Section II: Undergraduate Academic Advisor or Chair of Departmental Graduate Committee.

**Please mark accordingly:** \_\_\_ Undergraduate \_\_\_ Graduate (Non-Thesis) \_\_\_ Graduate (Thesis)

**Recommendation:** \_\_\_ Recommend approval \_\_\_ Do not recommend approval

**REASON:** (Provide justification for decision based upon a reason listed above in Section I, #4)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended by:** (Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept.** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Students must bring this form to ISS for approval before taking a reduced course load (RCL).**

**APPENDIX B:****SAMPLE PLAN OF STUDY**

(available via the <https://mypurdue.purdue.edu>)



### Graduate Plan of Study

**Status**                      **APPROVED**                      **Submitted 05/18/2005**

|                        |  |           |
|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Student                | DOE, JOHN A.   | 123456789 |
| Student Email          | <a href="mailto:doej@tech.purdue.edu">doej@tech.purdue.edu</a> |           |
| Department             | TECHNOLOGY   | TECH      |
| Degree Title           | MASTER OF SCIENCE : NON-THESIS                                 | 21        |
| Date Degree Expected   | May 2006   |           |
| Area of Specialization | HUMAN FACTORS  | 000       |
| Research Area          | AVIATION HUMAN FACTORS   |           |

**Supplemental Notes:** [Add A Supplemental Note](#) [View All Notes](#)

| Subject | Type   | Author | Date Added |
|---------|--------|--------|------------|
|         | PUBLIC |        | 06/08/2005 |
|         | PUBLIC |        | 09/19/2005 |

Items in purple are completed. / Items in green are incomplete.

**Courses: \*\* Grades posted here are as of the end of the semester that they were taken.  
Late grade changes or title changes may not be reflected. If you see a discrepancy, contact the Graduate School.**

| Area    | Courses Title                            | Subj. Abbr. | Course No. | Credit Hours | Regis. Type | Grade | B or better | Transfer From | Date Completed To Be Completed |
|---------|--|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| PRIMARY | MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION IN INDUSTRY   | IT          | 50700      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | May 2004                       |
| PRIMARY | QUAL & PROD IND & TECH                   | AT          | 50800      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2005                       |
| PRIMARY | MANAG RISK OF ORG ACCI                   | AT          | 57300      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2004                       |
| PRIMARY | APPLIED RESEARCH PRACT                   | AT          | 58100      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Aug 2005                       |
| PRIMARY | SOLV IND PROB APPL RES                   | AT          | 58100      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2004                       |
| PRIMARY | ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH IN INDUSTRY AND TEC | TECH        | 64600      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | May 2004                       |
| RELATED | HUMAN ERROR                              | AT          | 57200      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2003                       |
| RELATED | BIOMETRICS TECH&APPLIC                   | IT          | 58100      | 3            | RE          |       | -           | -             | May 2004                       |
| RELATED | HUMAN FACTORS ISSUES                     | AT          | 59000      | 2            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2003                       |
| RELATED | HUMAN FACTORS IN AVIATION                | AT          | 59000      | 2            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Dec 2004                       |
| RELATED | SAFETY ASSESSMENT                        | AT          | 59000      | 2            | RE          |       | -           | -             | Aug 2003                       |

**Purdue graduate course tallies:**

Purdue POS GPA: 4

Purdue Primary Area Credit Hours : 18

Purdue Related Area Credit Hours : 12

Purdue Area Not Specified Credit Hours: 0

**Language Requirement : None**

**Comments Regarding Exceptions or Requirements: None**

**Advisory Committee Information and Approval Status**

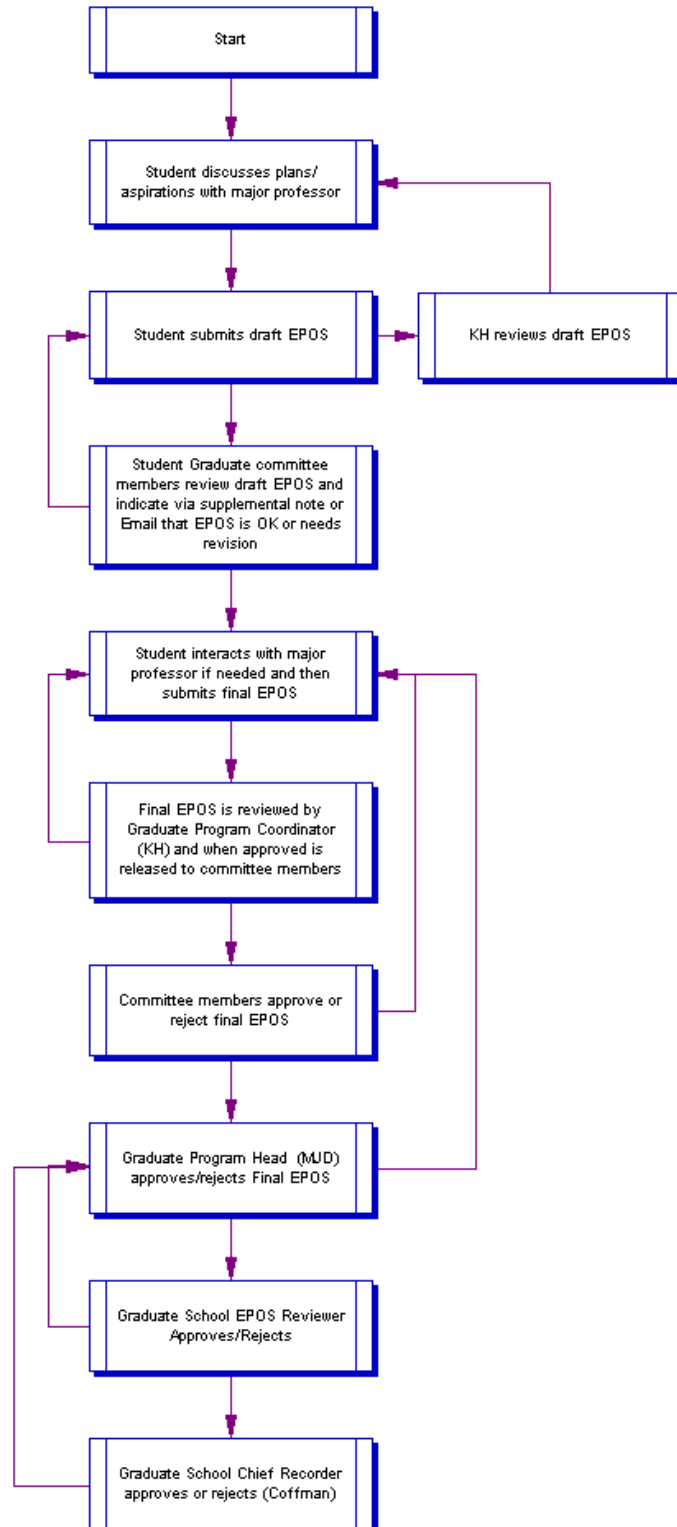
| Level | Names of Advisory Committee Members | Cert | Faculty Identifier | Status   | Department Code | Advisor in Area of |
|-------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| 50    | GARY M. EIFF (CHAIR)                | R    | C9999              | APPROVED by Gary M. Eiff 10/09/2005 15:58:08       | T37             | TECHNOLOGY         |
| 50    | DENVER W. LOPP                      | R    | C8888              | APPROVED by Denver W. Lopp 10/09/2005 16:01:49     | T37             | HUMAN FACTORS      |
| 50    | STEPHEN J. ELLIOTT                  | R    | C7777              | APPROVED by Stephen J. Elliott 10/09/2005 13:25:00 | T37             | TECHNOLOGY         |

**Additional Authorization**

| Level | Authorization                  | Required Signature          | Status   |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 70    | Student                        | John Doe                    | SUBMITTED 09/18/2005 11:59:41                        |
| 60    | Plan of Study Coordinator      | Debbie Hulsey               | APPROVED by Debbie Hulsey 10/09/2005 11:26:39        |
| 20    | Graduate Program Authorization | Gary Bertoline              | APPROVED by Gary Bertoline 10/20/2005 14:17:14       |
| 10    | Graduate School Authorization  | <u>Patricia A. Springer</u> | APPROVED by Patricia A. Springer 10/26/2005 09:20:50 |
| 0     | Processor                      | <u>Richard D. Coffman</u>   | PROCESSED by Richard D. Coffman 10/27/2005 12:59:18  |

**APPENDIX C:**  
**FLOWCHART OF EPOS PROCESS**

## EPOS Process



**APPENDIX D:**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY REQUEST FORM AND INSTRUCTIONS**

*(available at*

[https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/690INDEPENDENT\\_STUDY\\_AUTH.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/690INDEPENDENT_STUDY_AUTH.pdf)*)*



**INDEPENDENT STUDY REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS**  
**Polytechnic Institute**  
**Purdue University**

**REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN AN INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSE**

**Procedures**

1. Meet with your professor to discuss your proposed study and secure his/her approval for the project you envision.
2. Incorporating your professor's input, prepare a detailed project prospectus (typed or word processed, use APA format, title page), including the following indicated sections.
  - a. **Problem:** Define the rationale and delimit your problem area (explain your interest in pursuing the project, why this area is of concern to you). How does this project relate to your degree objectives?
  - b. **Purpose and Objectives:** What do you hope to accomplish? Provide a physical numbered listing of all objectives you expect to accomplish.
  - c. **Procedures:** Explain the methods you expect to use and any unusual requirements for materials, equipment, or facilities. A graphical time line and two progress reports from the student must be submitted by the student to the professor in charge between weeks three and ten of the semester. Specifically, indicate key deadline dates for each progress report and deliverable. Provide a narrative, flow chart, or outline of step-by-step procedures used to complete this study. If applicable, provide a supply and material cost worksheet.
  - d. **Outcomes:** What will be the tangible results (deliverables, i.e. software source code, papers, reports, products, or summaries) of your study? Who will receive copies (office, professor, co-working professor, and student)? Will you conduct a formal presentation of your results?
3. Meet with your professor in charge to discuss and refine your project prospectus.
4. Revise the prospectus as necessary. Complete the **INDEPENDENT STUDY AUTHORIZATION FORM** (reverse side of this page); attach it to the front of the prospectus; and secure the signatures of your academic advisor and the professor in charge of the independent study course you will be taking.
5. Submit the signed copy of your request to the Graduate Office, Room 150 KNOY. The prospectus must be accompanied by a completed course request (Form 23). A copy of your project-prospectus must be given to the professor in charge. **DO NOT** submit the Form 23 at the Graduate Office prior to securing the department head's approval for the prospectus. Approval criteria include: 1) total numbers of independent study courses on Plan of Study; and 2) Focus on a Polytechnic Institute discipline.
6. The Graduate Secretary will make and distribute copies to appropriate persons and file the original in the departmental office. Make sure to keep a copy for yourself.

**Regulations and Restrictions in the Use of Independent Study Courses**

1. Independent study may be included in a graduate plan of study only when enrollment is scheduled after the plan of study has been approved. Check with your advisor for other restrictions which may apply to you. Typically, such courses cannot be added to your schedule after the third week of classes.
2. You must submit a copy of your final outcomes (using APA format) for the study to the department head for departmental files, and a copy to the professor in charge before the beginning of finals week. Failure to do so can result in an incomplete or a failing grade.
3. All work submitted must be independent of other course work (previous, existing, or future).

**APPENDIX E:****0POLYTECHNIC FORM 2: ACCEPTANCE OF GRADUATE PROPOSAL**

(available at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic\\_Form2\\_v1\\_0.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic_Form2_v1_0.pdf))



*Polytechnic Grad Studies Form 2*  
*V 1.0*

*Please type or print clearly*  
*August 2010*

**Purdue Polytechnic  
Graduate Studies**

**Acceptance of Graduate Proposal**  
**(To be submitted to Graduate Studies Office Following Proposal Defense Meeting)**

Title of Project:

Proposal Defense Date:

Project Type:

Directed Project  
Thesis  
Dissertation

Chair

Date (month/day/year)

Member

Date (month/day/year)

Member

Date (month/day/year)

Member

Date (month/day/year)

Printed Name and Signature of Candidate

Date (month/day/year)

**APPENDIX F:****DIRECTED PROJECT COVER PAGE**

(available at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/DP\\_Report\\_Cover\\_Page.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/DP_Report_Cover_Page.pdf))

**PURDUE**  
UNIVERSITY

Purdue University West Lafayette, Indiana



**Polytechnic Institute**

<Title>

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Science in Technology

A Directed Project Report

By

<Your Name Here>

<Date>

Committee Member

Approval Signature

Date

<Name>, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<Name>

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<Name>

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<Name>

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX G:**  
**THESIS COVER PAGE**

(available at <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/templates.html>)

**PLEASE ENTER TITLE HERE**

A **Select Type**

Submitted to the Faculty

of

Purdue University

by

**Your Name**

In Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

of

Master of Science

**Select Graduation Month** **Select Graduation Year**

Purdue University

West Lafayette, Indiana

**APPENDIX H:****POLYTECHNIC FORM 3: RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND COPYRIGHT  
DISCLAIMER**

(available at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic\\_Form3\\_v1\\_0.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic_Form3_v1_0.pdf))

*Polytechnic Grad Studies Form 3*  
V 1.0

*Please type or print clearly*  
*August 2010*

**Purdue Polytechnic  
Graduate Studies**

**Research Integrity & Copyright Disclaimer**  
(must be included as page 2 of the Directed Project Report)

Title of Directed Project:

For the degree of

I certify that in the preparation of this directed project, I have observed the provisions of *Purdue University Teaching, Research, and Outreach Policy on Research Misconduct (VIII.3.1)*, October 1, 2008.\*

Further, I certify that this work is free of plagiarism and all materials appearing in this directed project have been properly quoted and attributed.

I certify that all copyrighted material incorporated into this directed project is in compliance with the United States' copyright law and that I have received written permission from the copyright owners for my use of their work, which is beyond the scope of the law. I agree to indemnify and save harmless Purdue University from any and all claims that may be asserted or that may arise from any copyright violation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name and Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (month/day/year)

**APPENDIX I:****POLYTECHNIC FORM 1: REQUEST TO SCHEDULE ORAL EXAMINATION**

*(more information available at*

[https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic\\_Form1\\_v1\\_0.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic_Form1_v1_0.pdf))



*Polytechnic Grad Studies Form***Purdue Polytechnic  
Graduate Studies***Please type or print clearly***Request to Schedule Oral Examination**  
(Must be filed 2 weeks prior to exam)

Major Advisor:

Graduate Student:

Directed Project Title:

Exam Date:

Exam Start Time:

Exam End Time:

Equipment Required (check all that apply):

Overhead Projector

Computer Projector

Other (please specify at right):

Examining Committee Members:

Additional Invited Guests Requested:

Examining Committee Same as Advisory Committee?

Yes

No

Note: It is College of Technology graduate policy that the presentation portion of all final examinations be open to the university faculty and student communities.

Requested By:

Grad Faculty Code: 

Signature, Major Advisor

**NOTE: Please assume this request has not been received by the College of Technology Graduate Office until you receive confirmation.****CONFIRMATION: (for office use only)**

Exam Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Exam Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_ Equip: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty &amp; Student Notified: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX J:****EXAMPLE FORM 23**

<http://www.purdue.edu/registrar/currentStudents/students/addDropCourses.html>

| OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR<br>FORM 23 (10/2008)   |                             | <b>SCHEDULE REVISION REQUEST</b> |            |   |                                      | PURDUE UNIVERSITY                   |          |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. PUID <u>0012345678</u>  |                             | 2. NAME <u>Smith</u> <u>Bill</u> |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
|  |                             | LAST                             |            | FIRST   |                                      | MIDDLE                              |          |
| 3. TERM <u>Fall 2009</u><br>(ex. Fall 2008)  |                             | 4. COLLEGE <u>Tech</u>           |            | 5. MAJOR <u>GR</u>  |                                      | 6. CLASSIFICATION _____             |          |
| 7. CANDIDATE _____ YES _____ NO  |                             |                                  |            | 8. REGISTRATION FOR <input type="checkbox"/> EXAM ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> DEGREE ONLY   |                                      |                                     |          |
| <b>DROP/ADD/MODIFY REQUEST</b>   |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
|  | A-Add<br>D-Drop<br>M-Modify | CRN                              | Subject    | Course No.  | Var.<br>Credit                       | W/<br>WF                            | P/<br>NP |
| 1  | A                           | 32680                            | CGT        | 58100   | 3                                    |                                     |          |
| 2  | A                           | 36810                            | Tech       | 69800   | 3                                    |                                     |          |
| 3  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 4  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 5  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 6  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 7  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 8  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 9  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 10   |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| <b>VARIABLE TITLE COURSES</b>  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
|  | CRN                         | Subject                          | Course No. | Credit  | P/NP                                 | Course Title (Limit: 30 Characters) |          |
| 1  | 12469                       | CNIT                             | 59000      | 3   |                                      | Surviving Grad School               |          |
| 2  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| <b>OVERRIDE REQUEST</b>  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
|  | Override Code*              | CRN                              | Subject    | Course No.  | Instructor/Department Head Signature |                                     | Date     |
| 1  | INST PERMT                  | 36810                            | Tech       | 699   | x Dottie Huby                        |                                     |          |
| 2  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 3  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| 4  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| <b>*OVERRIDE CODES</b>   |                             | <b>COMMENTS</b>                  |            | <b>AUTHORIZATIONS</b>   |                                      |                                     |          |
| CLASS      Classification Override<br>CLOSED    Closed Section Override<br>CO-REQ    Co-req Override<br>COLLEGE   College Restriction Override<br>DEGREE    Degree Override<br>DPT-PERMIT Department Permission<br>DUP-CRSE   Duplicate Course<br>HONORS    Honors Permission<br>INST-PERMT Instructor Permission<br>LEVEL     UG or GR Level Override<br>MAJOR     Major Restriction Override<br>PRE-REQ   Pre-req Override<br>PROGRAM   Program Override<br>REPEAT    Repeat Limit Override<br>TIME-CNFLT Time Conflict Override |                             |                                  |            | SIGNATURE OF STUDENT <u>Bill Smith</u> _____ DATE _____<br>SIGNATURE OF STUDENT'S ADVISOR OR GRADUATE SCHOOL <u>Gary Bertoline</u> _____ DATE _____<br>PRINTED/TYPED NAME OF STUDENT'S ADVISOR OR GRADUATE SCHOOL <u>Gary Bertoline</u> _____ |                                      |                                     |          |
|  |                             |                                  |            | OFFICE USE  |                                      |                                     |          |
|  |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |
| ACADEMIC ADVISING OFFICE   |                             |                                  |            |   |                                      |                                     |          |

**APPENDIX K:****GS FORM 9: THESIS ACCEPTANCE**

*more information available at <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/gpo/forms/gs-form9.pdf>*

GS Form 9  
Updated 12/16/2015

## INSTRUCTION PAGE FOR GS FORM 9 – THESIS/DISSERTATION ACCEPTANCE

- Do not attach this form to your thesis.
- If your major professor marks your thesis/dissertation as **Confidential**, you must complete and submit GS Form 15  
<http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/required-forms.html>

### HOW TO COMPLETE GS FORM 9:

1. Type your name as it appears in your Purdue Registrar Records in the first field
2. Type your thesis title using either ALL CAPS or Title Case in the second field
3. Select your Degree from the pull down menu
4. Designate chair/co-chair lines:
  - If you have a one committee chair, select Chair from the drop down menu beneath the first signature line
  - If you have co-chairs select Co-chair from the pull down menus beneath the first two or three signature lines (as needed)
5. You do not need to type the names of your committee members on the form
6. Print the form (DO NOT PRINT DOUBLE SIDED)
7. Obtain necessary signatures:
  - Some people may need to sign the form in multiple places
  - Format Approved by line:
    - If your department has a Departmental Thesis Format Advisor, s/he should sign the "Format Approved by" line (For a list of Departmental Thesis Format Advisors: <http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/contact.html>)
    - If your department does not have a Departmental Thesis Format Advisor, the Chair of your final examining committee should sign the "Format Approved by" line
8. Submit the form:
  - If you are doing an in person deposit, bring the form to your final deposit appointment
  - If you are doing a long distance deposit, have the form delivered to the Thesis/Dissertation Office before your appointment time

### **A GS FORM 9 WITH MISSING SIGNATURES OR INCOMPLETE FIELDS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED** **SIGNATURES MAY NOT BE OBTAINED ELECTRONICALLY**

- Please make every effort to obtain necessary signatures.
- If one of your committee members is unable to physically sign the form, the committee member can designate your major professor or department head to sign the form on his/her behalf.
- We must have written permission from the committee member. S/he should to send an email to the person who will sign for them or to a departmental staff member stating:  
  

I grant <name of major professor or department head> permission to sign as my proxy on the GS Form 9 of <name of student>.
- This should be followed by their full name, department, and contact info.
- Please attach a paper copy of this permission statement to the completed GS Form 9.
- A maximum of 2 proxy signatures may appear on this form. If you need a proxy to sign for more than 2 members, please contact our office.

GS Form 9  
Updated 12/16/2015

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
Thesis/Dissertation Acceptance**

This is to certify that the thesis/dissertation

By

Entitled

For the degree of

Is approved by the final examining committee:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Format Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Final Examining Committee Department Thesis Format Advisor

- ☐ This thesis is confidential.  
☐ This thesis is not confidential.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major Professor

To the best of my knowledge and as understood by the student in the *Thesis/Dissertation Agreement, Publication Delay, and Certification/Disclaimer (Graduate School Form 32)*, this thesis/dissertation adheres to the provisions of Purdue University's "Policy on Integrity in Research" and the use of copyrighted material.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Major Professor

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Head of the Departmental Graduate Program Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

**APPENDIX L:**

**GS FORM 30: ELECTRONIC THESIS DEPOSIT**

*(more information available at <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/thesis/Student-Instructions-Thesis-Acceptance-Form.pdf>)*

INSTRUCTION PAGE FOR  
**GS FORM 30**  
FOR ELECTRONIC THESIS DEPOSIT  
(Formerly called ETD Form 9)

**INCLUDE GS FORM 30 BEFORE THE FIRST PAGE OF YOUR ELECTRONIC THESIS DOCUMENT**

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER FORMS WITH YOUR ELECTRONIC THESIS SUBMISSION  
DO NOT INCLUDE THIS INSTRUCTION PAGE WHEN YOU ATTACH TO THESIS  
DO NOT ATTACH ANY OTHER FORMS TO YOUR THESIS

**Please use ADOBE ACROBAT PRO to complete this form**

A free 30-day trial is available here: <https://www.adobe.com/free-trial-download.html>

**ALL NAMES ON THIS FORM SHOULD BE TYPED ONLY - NO SIGNATURES**

• **TO COMPLETE GS FORM 30:**

1. Type your name as it appears in your Purdue Records in the first field
2. Type your thesis title using either ALL CAPS or Title Case in the second field
3. Select your Degree from the pull down menu
4. Type the names of your committee members, major professor, and head of the departmental graduate program as they appear on your signed GS Form 9 (include the date the head of the departmental graduate program signed your GS Form 9)

• **TO CONVERT GS FORM 30 TO A NON-INTERACTIVE (STABILIZED) FILE:**

1. Click File and choose Print
2. Select "Adobe PDF" from printer selection using drop down menu.
3. Specify print range as the last page (form page) only. This will keep you from including the instruction page.

**\*For MAC users:** Using the Create button, save GS Form 30 as a Word document, then using the print command in Word choose Print as PDF.

• **TO COMBINE PDF FILES**

(to include GS Form 30 as the first page of your electronic thesis submission):

1. Open your PDF thesis.
2. Click on Tools in the right side of the Ribbon.
3. Under Insert Pages click Insert From File.
4. Select your non-interactive PDF ETD Form 9 and click Okay.
5. Set the location to Before and check the button next to First Page, then click Okay.
6. Save your new, combined document.

**Questions?**

Email [gradhelp@purdue.edu](mailto:gradhelp@purdue.edu) with THESIS FORMS in the subject line  
Or call (765) 494-3231



---

*Graduate School Form  
30 Updated 12/26/2015*

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
Thesis/Dissertation Acceptance**

This is to certify that the thesis/dissertation prepared

By \_\_\_\_\_

Entitled

\_\_\_\_\_

For the degree of \_\_\_\_\_

Is approved by the final examining committee:

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| _____       | _____ |
| Chair _____ | _____ |
| _____       | _____ |
| _____       | _____ |
| _____       | _____ |

To the best of my knowledge and as understood by the student in the Thesis/Dissertation Agreement, Publication Delay, and Certification Disclaimer (Graduate School Form 32), this thesis/dissertation adheres to the provisions of Purdue University's "Policy of Integrity in Research" and the use of copyright material.

Approved by Major Professor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of the Departmental Graduate Program

Date

**APPENDIX M:****GS FORM 32: THESIS/DISSERTATION AGREEMENT, PUBLICATION  
DELAY, AND CERTIFICATION/DISCLAIMER**

*(more information available at <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/research/thesis/requirements.html>)* \_

GS Form 32  
Updated 02/15/2016

## INSTRUCTION PAGE FOR GS FORM 32

- Do not attach this form to your electronic thesis document
- All signatures should be in ink
- iThenticate:
  - iThenticate Plagiarism Screening by your major professor must take place prior to completing this form
  - Major professors can obtain iThenticate accounts from Dr. James Mohler, Associate Dean of the Graduate School
  - For information on iThenticate visit: [purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/plagiarism/](http://purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/plagiarism/)

### HOW TO COMPLETE GS FORM 32

1. Have your major professor review your thesis/dissertation using iThenticate
2. Complete page 1 by typing your name, PUID, major professor's name, and thesis title, and by selecting your degree, department, and campus from the drop down menus (works best in Adobe Acrobat Pro—free trial available [acrobat.com/free-trial-download.html](http://acrobat.com/free-trial-download.html))
3. Print the form (do not include this instruction page if printing double sided) and complete your portion of pages 2, 3 and 4
4. Have your major professor write the date of your iThenticate review on page 4
5. Have your major professor sign page 4
6. If you are requesting a delay of publication: Have your major professor sign page 3
7. Bring the completed form to your deposit appointment

### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR LONG DISTANCE DEPOSITORS

Please make every effort to have your major professor perform the iThenticate review and sign this form before you leave the Lafayette area. If this is not possible:

1. Have your major professor review your thesis/dissertation using iThenticate
2. Have your major professor print this form, and sign and date page 4
3. If you are requesting a delay of publication: Have your major professor sign page 3
4. Have your major professor send page 4 (and, if requesting a delay, page 3) to the Thesis/Dissertation Office (Young Hall Room B-80) **with an attached note stating your full name, department and degree\***
5. Complete page 1 by typing your name, PUID, major professor's name, and thesis title, and by selecting your degree, department, and campus from the drop down menus (works best in Adobe Acrobat Pro—free trial available [acrobat.com/free-trial-download.html](http://acrobat.com/free-trial-download.html))
6. Print the form (do not include this instruction page if printing double sided) and complete your portion of pages 2, 3 and 4
7. Mail the form to:  
Thesis/Dissertation Office  
155 S. Grant Street  
B-80 Ernest C. Young Hall  
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2114

\*All your forms must be in the T/D Office before your appointment time or your appointment will be cancelled. Make sure your major professor understands this and knows when you are depositing.

---

*GS Form 32  
Updated 11/18/2014*

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

**Master's Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation Agreement, Publication Delay,  
and Research Integrity and Copyright Disclaimer**

Author

PUID

Degree

Department

Campus

Major Professor

Thesis/Dissertation Title

The following items apply to all authors and must be fully completed/signed:

- Section I. Master's Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation Agreement
- Section II. Delay of Publication
- Section III. Research Integrity & Copyright Disclaimer

GS Form 32  
Updated 11/18/2014

## **Section I. Master's Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation Agreement**

Purdue University maintains digital copies of theses and dissertations produced by Purdue University students in the Purdue Institutional Repository, Purdue e-Pubs. In the interest of promoting learning and discovery, Purdue University permits access to these archives.

Purdue University requests that authors of theses and dissertations grant to the University the right to copy, distribute, and make these available through such digital outlets as the Purdue University Institutional Repository. Such permission allows the author and the University to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and research by making their works available to scholars. Research becomes more broadly disseminated and may assist authors in future endeavors. Purdue University typically receives no monetary gain from the reproduction and distribution of master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations except for recovering costs associated with such reproduction and distribution (e.g., without authors' permission, master's theses generally cannot be copied, in whole or in part, for such educational purposes as inter-library loan.)

Copyright ownership remains with the author in accordance with *Purdue University Intellectual Policy I.A.1*. This agreement does not prohibit the author in any way from entering into a publishing contract. The author retains all the exclusive rights granted to copyright holders under United States copyright law subject only to the rights granted to the University as stated below.

### **Agreement**

I grant in perpetuity, without restriction, royalty free to Purdue University the nonexclusive right and license to reproduce, distribute, and display, in whole or in part, my master's thesis or Ph.D. dissertation in any format now known or later developed (e.g., ePubs) for preservation and access in accordance with this agreement. This agreement does not represent a transfer of copyright to Purdue University.

I understand that the University will observe any publication restrictions that I have placed on my work and will not make my thesis or dissertation available to other parties until such time as it has been released from these restrictions or I have given my prior permission to the University to allow access by others.

I represent and warrant to Purdue University that the Work is my original work and does not, to the best of my knowledge, infringe or violate any rights of others nor does the deposit violate any applicable laws. I further represent and warrant that I have the authority and/or have obtained all necessary rights to permit Purdue University to use, duplicate, and distribute, the Work and that any third-party owned content is clearly identified and acknowledged within the Work.

This *agreement* shall survive assignment of any and all exclusive rights provided to copyright holders in Section 106 of the United States copyright law.

---

Signature of Author

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

GS Form 32  
Updated 11/18/2014

## Section II. Delay of Publication

Authors may request a publication restriction as part of the ETD submission process. While such restrictions are not generally recommended by the Graduate School, there are cases where their use may be prudent (e.g., patent applications, proprietary data, article and monograph publishing, etc.).

Careful consideration should be given before deciding. Delaying publication will prevent copies of your dissertation from being made available to others outside of the University who wish to read about your research in a timely fashion.

If you are considering a delay of publication, discuss the matter with your major professor. If you opt for a delay, your major professor must indicate his/her concurrence by signing on the appropriate line below.

Your delay of publication will commence upon receipt of your ETD by ProQuest Information & Learning and carry over to the Purdue University institutional repository. During your delay period, your abstract and citation information will be available for viewing online. However, your thesis/dissertation will be withheld from viewing and/or purchase by outside parties. Once your delay has expired, ProQuest will then post your document online expeditiously.

Please note that Delay of Publication is not the same as Confidentiality. Delays of Publication are offered via ProQuest Information & Learning (your nominal publisher), but Confidentiality is a program administered by the Purdue University Graduate School. Confidentiality requires GS Form 15. You may use delays and confidentiality separately or in tandem. If you use both, the Confidentiality period is enacted first. When it ends, the Delay period begins.

### Delay

The delay information on this form must match the delay information you provide to ProQuest.

☐ No publication delay

☐ Publication delay until \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Author \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Major Professor \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

\* Author's signature is required in all cases

\*\* Major professor's signature is only required when a delay is requested

*GS Form 32  
Updated 11/18/2014*

**Section III.  
Research Integrity and Copyright Disclaimer**

I certify that in the preparation of this thesis/dissertation, I have observed the provisions of Purdue University Policy III.A.2, November 18, 2011, Policy on Research Misconduct. \*

I certify that all copyrighted material incorporated into this thesis/dissertation complies with United States copyright law and that I have received written permission from the copyright owners for my use of their work, which is beyond the scope of the law. I agree to indemnify and save harmless Purdue University from any and all claims that may be asserted or that may arise from any copyright violation.

---

Signature of Author

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

I certify that the author's manuscript was diagnostically reviewed by iThenticate on the date indicated below. Based on the results of the iThenticate diagnostic review; and, to the best of my knowledge, the manuscript includes original work of the author and, in good faith, I believe all content from other authors appearing in the thesis/dissertation has been properly quoted and attributed.

---

Date of iThenticate Review (mm/dd/yyyy)

---

Signature of Major Professor

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

\* <http://www.purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iiia2.html>

**APPENDIX N:****POLYTECHNIC FORM 4: REQUEST TO CONTINUE FROM MASTER OF  
SCIENCE IN TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN  
TECHNOLOGY**

*(more information available at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/degrees/phd-  
technology/resources/continuation-ms-phd](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/degrees/phd-technology/resources/continuation-ms-phd))*

*(form available at [https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic\\_Form4\\_v1\\_0.pdf](https://polytechnic.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/files/Polytechnic_Form4_v1_0.pdf))*



*Polytechnic Grad Studies***Purdue Polytechnic  
Graduate Studies****Request to Continue from Master of Science in Technology  
Program to Doctor of Philosophy in Technology***(This form is only valid for students in the Polytechnic Master of Science. Students in departmental MS programs must apply online to the program via the Graduate School.)**Student completes this section and provides a copy of his or her approved thesis proposal to be included with this form.*

Major Advisor:

Graduate Student:

M.S. Thesis Title:

M.S. Graduation Date:

Cumulative M.S.GPA:

*Major advisor complete this section and obtain signatures*

M.S. Committee Members

Recommend for  
Continuation in PhD?

Yes

No

☐☐

Chair Signature

☐☐

Member Signature

☐☐

Member Signature

☐☐

Member Signature

*Department head complete this section*

Upon recommendation of the faculty comprising the student's graduate committee, I request that this student be allowed to continue from the Master of Science in Technology to the Doctor of Philosophy in Technology.

Department Head

Date

After completing this form, please route this document to Polytechnic Graduate Program Office | (Knov 461) so that the student's M.S. application package may be reviewed by the doctoral applicant review committee in the appropriate department.

