Students enrolled in the MA Africana Studies are obliged to write a thesis towards the completion of their degree. The following guidelines outline the process and general requirements for producing a thesis.

M.A. Committee

The role of the committee is to advise students on courses, practicum/internships, readings, choosing M.A. thesis topics and final grading of the thesis.

The M.A. committee will be made up of two faculty members. The student works closely with the primary advisor in researching, framing, and writing the Thesis. The primary adviser and second reader must be either core or associated members of the Africana Studies faculty. The second reader can be nominated by the student and approved by the primary advisor.

General tips for beginning work on thesis:

- Develop ideas and craft thesis research questions through course work and readings. The questions should engage you as a scholar and focus your inquiry.
- Check out the originality of your ideas. Has anyone done work in the area or how different will my inquiry and thesis be?
- Develop a review of literature, create a one page summary of the review and research question(s) which you will use to frame meetings with your faculty adviser. Set up a tentative method in consultation with your adviser.
- Set up a schedule for checking in with your primary adviser at the beginning of each semester.
- Read up on faculty and their expertise to ensure your research interests coincide—take classes from them, read their publications etc.
- Seek out faculty you will want to be your second reader as well.

Thesis requirements

Every thesis project should be an original research developed under the guidance of the student's primary advisor. Your thesis can focus on topics that are derived from any one or more of Africana's geographical areas of study (African-American, African, Caribbean, Afro-European, Afro-Latino, Afro-Pacific).

All MA theses in Africana Studies should abide by some general conventions of style and physical production. Thesis formats should be consistent with the following guidelines.

Page Numbers

A minimum/maximum of 40-60 pages double spaced writing is required for the completion of the thesis in Africana Studies.

Style Guide

Each thesis should conform to the style requirements of the Modern Language Association (MLA). Page layout and pagination, citations and bibliographies should be derived from the MLA handbook.

Content

Every thesis should include the following:

- A blank page preceding the title page
- A title page
- A one-page, single-spaced abstract
- If necessary, the student can include the following pages between the Abstract and Table of Contents in roman numerated pages—a dedication, acknowledgments, a preface
- A table of contents with page numbers and if necessary a table of illustrations, tables or figures
- Appropriate headings for chapters, sub-sections or other parts
- Appendices if appropriate
- A complete bibliography (not annotated)
- A blank page following the last page of the bibliography.

Layout

- Final Draft: 1 electronic (emailed as a PDF) typographically correct and edited copy of the thesis should be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator.
Pagination: The abstract, table of contents, preface, etc should be numbered in Roman numerals, and the main body of the thesis should be numbered in Arabic numerals. Numbers should be placed in the top right, or bottom middle or bottom right of the page.

Margins: Margins should be 1 1/2” on the left, top and bottom, and at least 1” on the right. Leave enough space on the left margin to allow the snap-back binder.

Proofreading: The final copy of the thesis should be thoroughly and correctly proofread.

**Completion of thesis**

- Thesis Proposal submitted with summer research plan and chapters, subsection or other parts outlined the end of your second semester in the program
- First Thesis Project Draft due no later than **two** months into intended term of graduation (ex. Nov. for January graduates; March for May graduates)
- Final Draft (approved by both readers) submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator no later than two weeks prior to graduation deadline

The following documents are required and must be sent to Graduation Services in the University Registrar’s Office by the graduation deadline in order to successfully complete the M.A.:

- Two Master’s Thesis Readers Sheets: one signed by adviser and one signed by additional core Africana Studies faculty approving Thesis
- Thesis title page signed by both readers (see template)

**GRADUATION SERVICES:** [http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/graduation/](http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/graduation/)