

Responsibilities of Thesis Advisors

1. Given that graduate thesis committee work is uncompensated labor, faculty members have the right to refuse to serve on committees and to select those graduate students with whom they will work based upon their own criteria of evaluation.
2. The thesis advisor should be committed to the education and training of the graduate student as a future member of the research or artistic community.
3. The thesis advisor should be knowledgeable of the requirements and deadlines of his/her graduate program as well as those of the Graduate College and advise the student throughout the process.
4. At the outset of the process, the thesis advisor should require the student to produce a written description of their proposed project—a prospectus, a project outline, or a sample chapter—in order to determine the viability of the project and to ascertain how the advisor can best serve the student.
5. The thesis advisor should meet one-on-one with the student on a regular basis. The advisor should provide timely feedback on the student's work to facilitate ongoing progress on the thesis.
6. The thesis advisor should help the graduate student to select a thesis committee.
7. The thesis advisor should provide a learning environment for his/her graduate student that is intellectually stimulating and supportive.
8. The thesis advisor should consistently enforce standards of rigor and academic conduct that model the best practices in research and scholarship in their discipline for the graduate student.
9. When the thesis advisor, in conjunction with other committee members, determines that the thesis project is ready to be publically defended, it is his/her job to arrange a time and place for the committee to meet for the defense and to make sure that the student has satisfied all of the requirements of the Department and the Graduate College. If a thesis project is not deemed ready by the thesis advisor in time for a scheduled defense, the advisor has the right and responsibility to delay the thesis defense until the student has revised the thesis to meet the advisor's standards.