

Choosing Your IM Graduate Paper

For your culminating experience you may choose to do a Plan A Thesis, Plan B Paper or Plan C Portfolio. Each option is intended to show you have mastered the content of and made a contribution to the field of Information Media.

1. Review the options below:

The Options			
For all three options register for and complete IM 608. This may be done after the completion of 12 credits in your program.			
	Plan A - Thesis	Plan B – Starred Paper	Plan C - Portfolio
Credits	6 credits	2 credits	0 credits
Registration	Register for IM699 the semester before you intend to complete ¹	Register for IM697 the semester you intend to complete ¹	No registration required
Persons involved	Committee (minimum of 3) - Adviser - IM graduate faculty - Graduate faculty outside IM	Committee (minimum of 3) - Adviser - IM graduate faculty - Graduate faculty outside IM	Committee (minimum of 3) - Adviser - IM graduate faculty - Graduate faculty outside IM
Meetings required	Two formal meetings with committee – Proposal: ▪ scheduled semester <u>before</u> you complete. ▪ consists of first 3 chapters – Final: occurs semester you complete	Two formal meetings with committee – Proposal: ▪ scheduled semester <u>before</u> you complete. ▪ consists of first 3 chapters – Final: occurs semester you complete	Two formal meetings with committee – Proposal: ▪ scheduled semester <u>before</u> you complete. ▪ consists of first 3 chapters – Final: occurs semester you complete ²
Format	Five chapter model 1) Statement of problem 2) Literature review 3) Methodology 4) Results/data 5) Analysis/Conclusions/Recommendations	Five chapter model 1) Statement of problem 2) Literature review 3) Methodology 4) Results//data 5) Analysis/Conclusions/Recommendations	Adaptation of five chapter model 1) Statement of theme that ties projects together 2) Literature review 3) Description of 3-5 projects 4) Projects 5) Analysis/Conclusions/Recommendations
Content	Original research	Original research	Paper and projects

¹ If you do not complete within the semester you register, you will receive an “IP” (In Progress) grade until the thesis or paper is completed.

² Must be available to the committee at least 2 weeks before the final meeting for committee examination

2. Examine samples of finished projects on reserve or in the CIM Office to help refine your understanding of the differences between the options.
3. Discuss your understanding of the plans with your adviser. You may also wish to discuss it with students who are completing their program or graduates of the program.
4. After you have selected a plan, work with your adviser to fill out your Program of Study form to file with Graduate Studies. (If, for some reason, you decide later to change plans, it may be possible to make the change through filing a new program of study.)
5. One of the hardest parts of each project is selecting a topic. Early in your program, start thinking of a topic that will be the focus of your project.
 - Topics covered in classes may capture your interest or problems you have observed on the job may cry out for solutions.
 - Select a topic in the field that will keep your interest through completion.
 - As you take classes, keep research articles that are pertinent to your topic. You may choose to write assigned papers in the general area of your topic, which allows you to become more familiar with your topic.
 - Discuss the general idea of your topic with your adviser to determine if it is worthwhile and feasible or too broad or too ambitious.

If you develop familiarity with your chosen topic and a file of articles to begin with, you will be far ahead of the curve as you take the IM608 class and write your project proposal.