

Application to Complete a Thesis (spring 2025)

To: Dr. XXX, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Communication and Journalism
Dr. XXX, Chair, Department of Communication and Journalism

Date:

This application to complete an MA thesis is submitted in response to the following from “CMJ Graduate Student Handbook” (May 2023):

“MA students who wish to pursue the thesis option will need to complete an application, to be submitted to the Chair and Graduate Coordinator by the end of Spring Break during the second semester (i.e., mid-March). This application needs to include a brief (i.e., no more than 250 words) description of their anticipated research project, a tentative timeline, and the names of two possible faculty advisors based on the student’s prior conversations with these individuals.” (“CMJ Graduate Student Handbook,” p.7)

Advisors:

Person A (agreed to chair)

Person B

Person C

I plan to write an MA thesis because I seek to examine and analyze the scholarship that I read in my first two semesters in more depth and detail. In other words, I want to develop a qualitative description of political rhetoric in El Salvador, using the analytical approaches I first learned in CMJ 525, Propaganda and Political Communication (Fall 2023), while combining that approach with the in-depth analysis (using grounded theory) that will be submitted for my final project in CMJ 540: Social Media and Digital Culture, where I reviewed people’s response on social media to the president’s orders to stop commemorating the signing of the peace accords in 1992.

I’m currently enrolled in CMJ 604: Qualitative Communication Research Methods (Spring 2024) where I’m learning about reflexivity, which I may also incorporate into my thesis. Furthermore, I plan to employ (if I can) what I’m developing in SPI: 590, Migration and Displacement, where I intend to analyze the discourse of the Salvadoran government when addressing our diaspora in the United States. For that project, I will be using the State-sponsored newspaper “Diario El Salvador” as a primary source.

I plan to meet regularly with Professor XXX to complete the prospectus for the committee, and to start pursuing my thesis research plan over this summer.

As you will see in more detail below, I plan to develop a prospectus by August and write my first chapters between October and November 2024, so they can be reviewed by my advisor in December and by the rest of the committee in the beginning of 2025. My goal is to defend my thesis in April in order to graduate in May.

TIMETABLE

2024	
March	Formulate thesis. Develop conceptual and organizational outline in consultation with advisor.
April	Schedule time for prospectus meeting with committee members. Spend the summer reading research and preparing prospectus.
August 15th	Prospectus to advisor
September 1 - 15 (approximately)	Prospectus meeting with committee
Oct - December 1st	Write first chapters
December 15th	Submit draft first chapters to advisor and revise
2025	
January 10th	Submit draft first chapters to committee members. Revise.
January 31st	Submit the application for graduation in MaineStreet
February 15th-28th	Complete draft of thesis to committee. Revise. Apply for graduation.
March 30th	Final draft of thesis to committee. Schedule an oral thesis/dissertation defense using the Notice of Oral Examination Form.
April 1st	Submit the tentative thesis and completed tentative thesis acceptance form/statement
April 15th - April 19th	Defend thesis. Submit a copy of the thesis and a tentative thesis acceptance form signed by all members to the Graduate School 24 hours before.
April 25th	Submit the final thesis and completed Final Thesis Acceptance Form. Submit Completion of Requirements Form.
May 3rd	Graduation date