

Timeline for the Master of Arts Degree in Religious Studies
THESIS TIMELINE

Complete the following timetable to help you map out your path to the M.A. Though students will complete their M.A. at different paces (as some students will have transfer credit, some will take summer courses, and so on), this timetable can serve as a guide and as a useful way for you to remain in sync with your graduate adviser.

This is a timeline for those intending to write a thesis. Unsure about whether you'd like to write a thesis or take the oral exams? That's okay! Check out this website and consult with your advisers in the department about how to make that decision. <https://religiousstudies.uncc.edu/graduate-studies/path-ma>

To complete this timetable, begin at the very end by filling out when you intend to graduate—and then work your way back up to the top. Specific university-wide deadlines will change every year, so make sure to cross-check this timetable against the UNC-Charlotte's updated schedule. This website will help you understand the various steps and keep track of deadlines: <https://religiousstudies.uncc.edu/graduate-studies/path-ma>

<i>Coursework:</i> You'll need a minimum of 30 hours of coursework (the equivalent of 10 courses). That works out to about 3 courses per semester during a two-year program. It's suggested that your first semester and your last semester (when you're writing) have a lighter workload.		
<i>RELS 6101:</i> This is one of two required courses in the program—aim to take it during your first year.	_____ Semester, 20_____	_____ Semester, 20_____
<i>RELS 6102:</i> The other required course in the program.	_____ Semester, 20_____	_____ Semester, 20_____
<i>Thesis Committee:</i> Aim to have your committee formed close to one-year before graduation.	APRIL, 20_____	DECEMBER, 20_____
<i>Planning Your Thesis:</i> As you prepare your proposal, meet with your adviser and sketch a timeline of the thesis writing process.	AUGUST, 20_____	JANUARY, 20_____

<i>Thesis Proposal Defense:</i> In the semester <i>before</i> the submission, you'll defend the thesis proposal.	<i>Deadline:</i> NOV. 15, 20____	<i>Deadline:</i> MARCH 1, 20____
<i>Thesis Writing:</i> You may take up to 6 credit hours of thesis writing.	Semesters for Thesis Writing: _____ and _____	Semesters for Thesis Writing: _____ and _____
<i>Apply to Graduate:</i> Early in your last semester, you'll apply.	JAN. _____, 20____	SEPT. _____, 20____
<i>Final Thesis Draft:</i> Make sure to give your committee members ample time (e.g., 3 weeks) to read your writing before the defense.	MARCH _____, 20____	OCT. _____, 20____
<i>Thesis Formatting Review Deadline:</i> Shortly before the submission, but schedule an appointment well before the deadline.	<i>Deadline:</i> MID-APRIL, 20__	<i>Deadline:</i> MID-NOV., 20____
<i>Thesis Defense:</i> 1-3 weeks before the submission, you'll defend.	APRIL 1-21, 20____	OCT. 20-NOV. 15, 20____
<i>Thesis Submission:</i> Final submission is shortly before graduation.	MAY 1, 20____	DECEMBER 1, 20____
<i>Graduation:</i> Congratulations!	SPRING of 20____	FALL of 20____
	<i>For those intending to graduate in the SPRING, use this column.</i>	<i>For those intending to graduate in the FALL, use this column.</i>