

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
GRADUATE PROGRAM

**OPTION A: SW 797 THESIS**

The thesis is offered as an option to graduate students in their concentration year of study. SW 797: Thesis is a six credit, two-semester course. ***The thesis is an option suggested for students committed to a) developing a particular area of social work research and b) working autonomously under the direction of a thesis committee.*** It builds on strong foundation-level research skills and *requires significant commitment and work during the summer preceding the concentration year.* A social work thesis must be grounded in Advanced Generalist Practice, and be explicit in addressing the implications of the research for the following five areas of professional social work practice: policy, micro/mezzo/macro practice, research, human behavior, and social justice/human diversity/social action. *Students choosing this option should enroll in SW 797 (3 credits) fall semester and SW 797 (3 credits) spring semester of their concentration year.*

If you are interested in applying for **Option A: Thesis** you should:

1. During **Spring Semester** in the year preceding your concentration year discuss your research plans with a faculty member who can help you decide if the option is a good one for you.
2. If you decide to pursue the thesis option, you will need to identify a faculty member is willing to serve as Chair of your thesis committee and begin working with you during the summer to complete the application process. Importantly, this application process includes development of a "Preliminary Thesis Proposal."
3. Submit the "Notice of Intent to Select Thesis Option," to your thesis committee Chair and the MSW Program Coordinator by **August 1**.
4. During the **week preceding the start of fall semester classes**, meet with your thesis committee Chair to make a final decision about pursuing the thesis option (if you *decide not to go forward with the thesis*, you should enroll in SW698 Integrative Project Seminar). If you continue with the thesis option, you will continue working with your thesis committee Chair to:
  - a. Identify the other members of your thesis committee (one must be from another academic unit);
  - b. Establish a project time line with special attention to the deadlines of the Office of Human Research Protection. If you are planning on a May graduation, the first three chapters of your thesis (i.e., the problem statement and research question, the literature review, and the research methodology) should be completed no later than **November**.

Thesis students present a thesis defense during **April**.

**Students should read and follow the "Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines" regarding the preparation of a thesis. These guidelines can be found online at:**

**<http://www.unr.edu/grad/forms/docs/9Dissertation%20and%20Thesis%20Format%20Instructionsrev09.pdf>**

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***Notice of Intent to Select Thesis Option***

**Please return to your Thesis Committee Chair and the MSW Program Coordinator  
by August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Working Title for Proposal:

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Attach a 2-3 page "Preliminary Thesis Proposal" which includes:

1. a brief problem statement including the research question
2. brief summary of the literature
3. proposed methodology
4. certificate of completion of Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI)  
offered through the UNR Office of Human Research Protection  
(<https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp>)

Signatures:

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty/Thesis Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_