

Office of Graduate Studies  
University of Kansas Medical Center

**M.A. and M.S. Final General Examination, Thesis Defense or Project Defense**

Completion of a final general examination, defense of a thesis or defense of a project in the major subject, is the culminating academic phase of the M.A. and M.S. degree programs and is required of all candidates for these two degrees. At the option of the academic program, the final general examination may be oral or written, or partly oral and partly written. In some departments, passing a written examination is a necessary preliminary to taking the oral examination by which success or failure is judged. For students defending a master's thesis, the student must be enrolled in a minimum of one hour of master thesis the semester the thesis is defended.

When a M.A. or M.S. student is in their final semester, the degree program requests the Office of Graduate Studies approve the scheduling of the final general exam, thesis or project defense via the Progress to Degree form. The degree program should ascertain that the student is in good academic standing (3.0 or higher grade-point average) and is currently in regular admission status, if the student was admitted provisionally, before scheduling the examination or defense. This request must be submitted in advance of the examination date by a minimum of two weeks.

The committee for the administration of the general exam or the defense of a thesis or project, must consist of at least 3 members, all of whom must be members of the Graduate Faculty (see Graduate Faculty section of this catalog.)

The Office of Graduate Studies verifies that all criteria described in the preceding three paragraphs has been met upon receiving a Progress to Degree form requesting the scheduling of the general exam, thesis defense or project defense. If the criteria has been met, Graduate Studies approves the request to proceed.