**Thesis Process**

After one year in the M.S. in Computer Science at Lamar University, if you decide that you wish to follow the Thesis option to graduation, contact those Graduate Faculty members that you think you might want to work with. Talk to them about your own interests and their work. Choose an adviser who is doing work that you like and who is willing to act as your Graduate Thesis Adviser. The Thesis Adviser is very important, because that person will guide your work, server as a mentor, and determine when you are finished with your research. Complete a G3 form that will serve as your degree plan as you progress towards graduation. On that form will be your Adviser’s name and the names of two other Graduate Committee members that are determined by the Department Chair. You should talk to the other members of the Graduate Committee as you progress in your research. That will facilitate the final approval of the written copy of your thesis when you are finished.

1. Register for COSC 5390. You will register for COSC 5391 during the second semester of your thesis. Remember that each faculty member has a different section number for the thesis. Make sure you get in the correct section.
2. Determine the problem you are going to try to solve in your research. Choosing the right problem is perhaps the most important part of research. You need to find a problem that is not so large that you cannot finish it in two semesters, and one that is not so small that it is not deemed worthy of a master’s degree. The problem that you choose should be the result of consultations with your adviser as well as your own interests.
3. Do a review of the literature related to your thesis topic. You do this by reading scholarly papers published in conference proceedings and journals. You may want to contact researchers at other institutions who are doing research on topics similar to yours.
4. Design a procedure and a methodology that will provide the information you need to solve the research problems that you are working on. It is a good idea to have some time milestones at which to assess how well you are making progress and whether you need to change direction or modify some of your ideas or assumptions.
5. During the second semester of your research, you should begin to write your Thesis. You are required to attend the Graduate Studies Thesis Workshop which is offered every semester by Graduate Studies. Find out the schedule for the Workshop and register. Learn what the deadline is for submitting your written copy of the Thesis to Graduate Studies for approval of your format and style.
6. Complete written draft of Thesis with the help of your Adviser and others on your Graduate Committee.. Use Chicago Style to format the Thesis. Most students need an **Editor** to ensure that your writing is well organized and written in clear English. Obtain an Editor if your Advisor suggests that you do so.
7. When your Advisor approves of your doing so, give the written copy of the Thesis to all members of the Graduate Committee. Do this so that the Graduate Committee members have at least a week before the deadline for submitting the written copy of the Thesis to Graduate Studies. **All members of Graduate Committee** must sign the Written Approval from Graduate Studies before the content of the Thesis is approved, and the written copy can be given to Graduate Studies.
8. After the written copy has been approved by the Graduate Committee in the Department, and Graduate Studies has approved the style and format of the Thesis, you may schedule a time for your ORAL examination and submit a G5 form with your advisor’s signature to Graduate Studies. The G5 form contains the schedule for the oral defense.
9. Prepare for ORAL Defense. On the day of the defense, complete the address part of the G7 form and give to the Advisor before the time of the defense. Make sure that you have the correct weight paper and signature sheets ready for the Graduate Committee to sign after the defense. The signature sheets should be given to the Advisor before the defense begins. The number of sheets is determined by how many copies of the Thesis you intend to make.
10. Complete ORAL Defense. If your Graduate Committee approves your ORAL Defense, then you are finished with your Thesis. Otherwise, you may be asked to do additional work to finish the Thesis.