

# **Master's Thesis**

## **Description:**

The thesis presents the results of an investigation of an approved subject in the CS department. Students must submit a satisfactory outline and comprehensive bibliography for the proposed thesis and demonstrate a mastery of the subject satisfactory to the guidance committee.

The students' program will be supervised by a thesis committee composed of three tenure-track faculty members, at least two of whom must be from the CS department (one may be from outside of the department). It is desirable for the student to have a conference with each committee member promptly following the approval of the topic. Thereafter, thesis work is normally under the immediate supervision of the committee chair. *Final acceptance is based upon the unanimous recommendation of all members of the committee.*

The student will register in courses 594a and b respectively during the final two semesters of the master's program as determined by discussion with an advisor. (Concurrent registration for 594a and b during the same semester is permitted when a student's progress makes completion of all requirements likely within one semester.) If the thesis has not been completed within these two semesters, the candidate must register for 594z each semester until the thesis has been accepted but no additional unit credit will be earned.

It is suggested that a student first take a directed research under the committee chairman for 1 unit to start formulating the thesis and begin preliminary research. Then if the student performs well in this area, then thesis be continued. If the student enrolls in CS 594a and decides not to continue, the units will not be counted towards their degree. If the student starts in 590, however, and decides not to continue, then those units can be counted towards the non-thesis degree..

## **Schedule of Deadlines:**

The Graduate School provides a schedule of specific dates for completing the various requirements to qualify the student for the master's degree with a thesis at commencement. For more information regarding thesis deadlines please visit the Graduate School website [www.usc.edu/dept/GRADSCHL/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/GRADSCHL/)

**Note: Please refer to the university catalogue for further detailed information regarding the master's thesis or visit the graduate advisor (SAL 300).**