

THESIS GUIDELINES FOR FGSS MAJORS*

These guidelines have been created to offer a clear pathway for the Senior Thesis required of all FGSS Majors. These benchmarks are designed to make sure that you are keeping pace with your project. The deadlines are a requirement of the Department and will be used for assessment and to gauge overall progress. If you have any questions and concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Chair of the Department.

If you are an FGSS Minor or are majoring in another discipline and you intend to ask an FGSS faculty member to be a first reader for your thesis, then please note that these benchmarks apply to you as well.

Some Basic Advice About Thesis Development

Start seeding some ideas early. Connect to what moves you, makes you interested, curious and excited. Begin to hone your research interests by the fall semester of your junior year.

FGSS 189, our methods course, is designed to help you think about research methods, and methodologies—this, or any other course that teaches you feminist methods, is a perfect “seeding ground” for a thesis idea.

Make an appointment with professors whose classes have excited you—or whose work seems to intersect with your interests. Bounce ideas off of them—and it is never too early to do this.

FGSS encourages work that is creative in many ways. Your thesis can be offered in various forms: written text, artistic, multimedia, engaged and/or community-based activism, and advocacy work. If a thesis combines written text with other forms of expression or engagement, you will need to set clear expectations regarding the written analysis with your FGSS faculty reader.

If the entire thesis will be submitted in written form, then we expect 50-75 pages of writing.

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*Please note that these guidelines will be also be helpful for FGSS Minors and other thesis writers interested in working with FGSS Faculty on projects that intersect with feminist and queer studies.

BENCHMARK 1

Description of Your Thesis.

Due: January 31, Spring Semester.

Junior Year.

A minimum two page (single space) description of your thesis idea. This should include:

- some mapping of your fields of concentration (see the most recent academic catalog for the latest descriptions of FGSS concentrations);
- your methods and methodologies;
- your strategies to fulfill your IRB requirements, if necessary;
- your strategies for financial support, if necessary;
- some idea of which faculty (within FGSS and across the college/s) you would like to work with.
- For those who are double-majoring or dual-majoring, you should delineate how you are coordinating and fulfilling the expectations for each department.

In this document, you are welcome to sketch out the challenges you potentially face and the assistance you might need (e.g. identifying readers for your thesis). Some of you will be working on pre-summer grants at this time so include any pertinent information related to your application process.

BENCHMARK 1(a)

IRB Applications and Approval (If Relevant)

Due: June 1. End of Junior Year.

IRB Applications should be done and approved by the end of the spring semester in your junior year. A copy of the approved application must be filed with the Department Chair.

BENCHMARK 2

Progress Report I: Post-Summer Summary Report.

Due: October 1. Fall Semester, Senior Year.

You will be expected to develop some aspect of your thesis research during the summer.

The Department will provide you a basic self-assessment tool to complete as part of this progress report. The overall report length must be four pages (double-spaced). Names and contact information of thesis readers you have confirmed and/or are considering must be included. (See the section below for our policy on readers.)

NOTE: If you are planning for departmental honors, you will need to notify the Chair of the Department in writing (not email) by October 30.

BENCHMARK 3

Progress Report II: Senior Year, Fall Semester Summary.

Due: December 10. End of Fall Semester, Senior Year.

Four pages (description of progress) will be expected. You must include an outline of chapters as well as the names and contact information of your confirmed readers. By the end of October, you should confirm all of your readers. You should also introduce your readers to each other via e-mail. Proof of email correspondence must be offered with your description and chapter outline. Majors are required to take FGSS 190: Feminist & Queer Pedagogies in the fall semester. Completion of this Progress Report will be part of the course requirements.

BENCHMARK 4

Progress Report III. Senior Year Spring Semester Summary.

Due: February 28. Spring Semester, Senior Year.

By this time, you should be near completion. Congratulations! A four page description of progress will be expected. Names and contact information of your readers need to be provided (including any changes). If you wish to participate in Capstone Day, please let us know of your interest by contacting the Chair of the Department.

Policies about Thesis Readership.

- If you are an FGSS major, then a tenure-track member of the FGSS faculty must be your first, second or third reader. While we appreciate that some of you might work with a non-tenure-track FGSS faculty member, this person might not be available for the duration of your thesis development.
- FGSS faculty do not have to be your first or guiding reader but their presence is important to ensure that your readers are aware of these benchmarks and departmental expectations.
- In addition to at least one FGSS faculty reader, you are welcome to work with any faculty member in the seven colleges of the consortium.
- You are welcome to invite faculty from other institutions (UC's for example) to be a reader on your thesis. Please be aware that Scripps College does not offer a stipend for outside readers.
- Communication between readers is important. Please recall that by December 10 of Senior year, the Department would like to ensure that you have introduced your readers to each other. (See Benchmark 3).