

MSW Thesis Timeline

When thinking about whether you want to write a thesis or complete a practicum, one important consideration is considering the time it takes to complete the thesis. While the thesis is scheduled in the same term as the final practicum, the work extends over at least a year. Below is a general timeline, outlining the steps and the approximate time each stage takes. The timelines are based on a range, the shorter end of the range would require significant hours of work on a weekly, even daily basis. The longer timeframe represents someone devoting part time hours to the work, having any kind of disruption to the research and/or life.

| Stage of work | average time | accumulated time |
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| Formulate research Question and formation Of committee | 2-4 weeks | 1 month |
| Draft proposal (Draft is read by Supervisor and revised, being shared with committee) | 6- 8 weeks | 2 months |
| Proposal Defence And revisions (Committee members Usually need 2 weeks Minimum to read the draft) | 3-4 weeks | 3 months |
| Draft ethics application And approval (once proposal Is approved, you submit an Ethics application. The committee Meets about once per month) | 4-6 weeks | 4 months |
| Data Collection (Often interviews, focus Groups, requires recruitment of Participants and transcription) | 2-3 months | 6- 7 months |
| Data Analysis (Coding etc.) | 1-2 months | 7-9 months |

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| Drafting of individual (Chapters for supervisor to Review, often a few drafts Of revisions are required) | 4 months | 11 – 13 months |
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| Pulling together entire first Draft (drawing on suggested Revisions) | 1-2 months | 12 – 15 months |
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| Supervisor reads entire draft | 1 month | 13- 16 months |
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| Revisions on entire draft | 1 month | 14 – 17 months |
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| Committee Reads Draft | 1 month | 15 – 18 months |
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| Final revisions (This varies widely depending On concerns raised by the Committee) | 2 weeks to 1 month | 15 – 19 months |
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| Submission to defence (Must submit 3 weeks before Defence. Finding dates for the Defence can be tricky at busy Times of the year) | 1 month | 16 – 20 months |
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| Making revisions following defence - 2-3 weeks | | Total process takes between 1- 1.5 years |
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