

OPTION 1: THESIS

The thesis is a full explication of a significant research problem using primary sources (interviews, archives or analogous materials) and substantive secondary sources. The thesis is based on one's own research project in Latin America. Committee members will evaluate your thesis based on the following four categories: High Pass, Pass, Low Pass and Fail.

Expected length: 80-100 pages

1 During the first semester, identify a potential thesis topic in consultation with your faculty advisor.

2 During the second semester, select an MA project option and establish a thesis committee. **By March 15**, submit a 4-5 page statement on your potential project to the committee chair and LAS Graduate Advisor Colin Deeds. In the statement, describe your major areas of concentration and regional focus. Provide a brief overview of the central theoretical and methodological questions you wish to explore through one of the two MA options.

3 During the summer, conduct research. Students are encouraged to apply for CLAS-administered Tinker Travel Grants to support summer field research in Latin America.

4 During the third semester, submit a thesis prospectus to your entire MA committee by October 15. The prospectus should be 5-10 pages and include a preliminary chapter outline and a preliminary bibliography.

5 During the fourth semester, finish writing your thesis and set a defense date by March 15. The thesis defense date must be scheduled with sufficient time so that the student can complete any required revisions before the end of the fourth semester. The thesis should be sent to committee members at least two weeks prior to the defense.

6 Defend your thesis. During the defense, you will meet with your committee. You will give a short presentation and respond to comments from committee members. Committee members will discuss with the student any revisions that must be completed before the thesis can be filed with the Graduate College.

7 A copy of the final, approved thesis must be given to the Center for Latin American Studies. The University requirements for thesis formatting are available from the Graduate College.