

CANDIDACY REVIEW PAMPHLET AND PRESENTATION

1. Candidacy Review

Candidacy Reviews are held at the end of the Spring semester in year one. The review includes a public 30 min. presentation (15 min. + 15 min. Q&A) open to faculty and students observers; Three days, 2 or 3 parallel sessions; assigned committees in which Thesis research faculty do not attend their own student reviews.

The final critique of students' *thesis proposal*, *abstract*, *research question*, *literature review*, and *plan of action*, as well as relevant studio and seminar work from both Fall and Spring of the first year will take place. Students are expected to design a *printed* pamphlet with the support of Thesis research faculty to be distributed in advance to the committee and present process and research methodology: definition, ideation, synthesis, realization (production) and implementation (placing the work in context) phases of the work. They should be no larger than 25MB.

There is some overlap in content, but should generally follow this structure:

Pamphlet (text)

- Literature Review
- Research Questions
- Thesis Abstract
- Plan of Action
- Thesis Proposal
- Bibliography

Presentation (image)

- Other studio work
- Literature Review Design Responses
- Research Questions
- Thesis Proposal
- Plan of Action

Research question(s): The thesis should pose a question relevant to contemporary discourse and issues. The research question evolves during the semester toward increased focus, relevance, arguability, and within the given time frame and student resources, its measurability.

Abstract: a short 250 word maximum summary that identifies the specific area of interest. The abstract should introduce the topic and the research question in context, justify its relevance, and make an hypothesis about methodologies the student plans to apply when investigating the question and related projects.

Literature review: a 2000 word maximum survey and discussion of the literature organized chronologically or thematically. Students are expected to present and to analyze, in a critical manner, the relevant published literature in order to justify their research question and demonstrate a detailed knowledge of their area of interest. The literature review should follow an appropriate bibliographic style. The department and/or thesis advisor will suggest the style manual that is most appropriate to the student.

Thesis proposal: The thesis proposal—not to exceed 500 words—should capture the question or premise that students propose as the subject of the thesis. It is a concise summary: the guiding question or premise, the processes students intend to use, the anticipated outcomes, and the audience. Students should include a justification that defines a rationale for the work and addresses why the study is important to the field of design with references to previous works and other related research. Students should define and visualize the positioning of their thesis in relation to other disciplines and clearly specify the thesis' contribution to the design discipline.

Plan of Action: an iterative plan of action that will propose specific sub-problems, readings, events or other activities that will guide the methodology students intend to apply to their embodied explorations and critical investigations.