**CS590 Week 3**

**Thesis/Project Steps to Go Through**

**699 Thesis – usually involves a new theory or method (usually 2 semesters)**

**698 Project – application oriented, applying an existing technique to a new area (one semester)**

1. As soon as possible, identify an area of your interest. (e.g. Network? AI? Software Engineering?)
2. Start reading papers in that area (conference papers) – **Broad literature review**.
3. Take classes in that area.
4. **Identify your advisor** and let the Graduate Coordinator know.

**🡺 At this point, you know a lot about an area of CS.**

1. Work with your advisor to find out a specific sub-area of interest (e.g. wireless network, learning software on mobile devices, reuse techniques)
2. Start reading papers in that area – **Focused literature review.**

**🡺 At this point, you know a lot about a sub-area of CS.**

1. Work with your advisor to identify your specific research goal.
2. Start reading papers related to your goal– **Very Focused literature review**.
3. **Develop a theory and proof plans.**
4. Type up your project summary with tentative schedule of tasks.
5. **Advance to candidacy** by filing a form, attaching the above summary. (You need knowledgeable committee members – ask your advisor for recommendation).

**🡺 This must be done before you have completed 18 units**

1. **Enroll in 698 or 699** by filling out the Independent Study Form (should be done in the prior semester)
2. Work closely with your advisor on the project.
3. Write sections of your thesis as you complete corresponding tasks.
4. **In week 12** of the final semester, be sure to give the complete write up to committee members and schedule your defense.
5. Library needs to review your thesis format. (not for 698)
6. Defense. (bring all forms and abstract on good cotton paper – 3 copies each)
7. Edits based on the committee comments.
8. Final copy to the library during the **finals week** (not for 698).

**Parts of a Thesis**

The parts of a thesis are very similar to a conference paper. However, every section must be written in full detail. No summaries. This is a complete record of your work.

You must also include appendices for

- source code

- instruments used in testing (e.g. questionnaires)

- and other items which are important records

**Please look at the sample TOC I have provided for you.**

**Defence**

After you have completed your thesis (and your committee members

have read it), you will have to pass a defence.

You will present your work (power point slides).

The committee members will ask you questions which are

not obvious from reading your thesis.

The committee will decide whether to pass you or not.

In most cases, you will have to do minor edits on your thesis.

Do not hold the defence in the last day of classes because you will not have time to do the edits.

Many questions have been about:

- significant contributions of your project to the field

- more details on someone else's work in comparison to yours

- details of your research (what you did in terms of design, implementation and testing.)

**In Class Exercise**

**Your job is to find all relevant forms for the thesis phase and write down the URLs and show me.**

* + Find the advancement to candidacy form (CS)
  + Find the general format guidelines
  + Find the web page which explains when to see the librarian
  + Find what forms to take to the defense and how many (CS)
  + Find guidelines on abstract paper quality