**East Stroudsburg University**

**Department of English**

**Thesis/Capstone Project Guidelines for MA candidates**

The following thesis guidelines shall apply to all candidates for the MA in Professional and Digital Media Writing:

1. All candidates for the master’s degree shall propose a print or digitally based endeavor of scholarly, professional, and/or creative significance in professional and digital media writing for a thesis or a capstone project.
2. All MA core classes should be completed or be taken concurrently with English 590 thesis hours.
3. Before (or very soon after) the beginning of enrollment in English 590 (thesis hours), all candidates must assemble a thesis committee, to include a thesis director and two readers drawn from the faculty in the English or other approved departments related to the candidate’s topic. See thesis chair for details.
4. Candidates should meet regularly with their thesis chair to stay on track with their thesis timeline. Readers should have input and a chance to offer revision suggestions for the draft of the thesis.
5. Before the beginning of English 590, all candidates must write a 2-3 page thesis prospectus to be approved by the thesis chair, department chair, and graduate coordinator. The prospectus should include a scholarly and/or professional rationale for the thesis project; an overview of the concept; a timeline for completion of the project; and an annotated bibliography of high qualities print and/or digital resources.
6. Where feasible (for print-based projects), candidates should follow the Graduate School’s thesis guidelines, available here: <http://www.esu.edu/documents/thesis_guidelines.pdf>
7. All candidates will present the thesis in an oral defense during which committee members will interview the candidate about the scholarly, professional, and/or artistic significance, methods, and findings of their research project.
8. The oral defense should take place no later than six years after matriculating in the MA program.
9. The completed and defended thesis must be formally submitted to the thesis committee chair, graduate coordinator, and graduate college no later than five weeks before graduate.
10. Exceptions to these guidelines may be granted in special cases, but they must be approved in writing by the thesis chair, graduate coordinator, and department chair.

Revised August 25, 2015