

**Appendix B**  
**School Psychology Graduate Program**  
**Thesis Requirements**

The School Psychology Graduate Program views the thesis requirements as an important opportunity for the students to learn how to research the literature on a specific topic, develop research hypotheses related to that topic, set up a research method that can test those hypotheses, collect data, and analyze that data. It is important that this requirement provide the students with skills that will have a direct benefit to them when they graduate.

Therefore, those students who plan to use their graduate degree to work in school settings are encouraged to develop a thesis that focuses on the type of applied/action research that they are likely able to complete when working within a school setting. This could include single-subject case studies, program reviews, qualitative studies, etc. Any school psychology student can also complete a more experimental type thesis project and this would be encouraged for any student who may wish to enter a PhD program in the future. No matter which type of thesis project the students choose to engage in they are able to work with any faculty member in the Psychology Department for their thesis committee.

**Below are the steps involved and deadlines that have to be met in completing the thesis:**

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
Complete PSY 651	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attend all faculty and graduate student presentations on research projects available in the department.</li> <li>2. Identify a possible topic</li> <li>3. Identify a thesis chair &amp; committee members</li> <li>4. Begin Literature Review and continue work on this over the break between the Fall and Spring semesters.</li> </ol>	Fall 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Complete PSY 652	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If planning to do research in school settings begin exploring possible options available</li> <li>2. Develop a possible concept summary</li> <li>3. Develop a possible outline with initial reference list</li> <li>4. Develop a presentation on your possible thesis topic</li> <li>5. Begin work with your thesis chair on your Prospectus and submit a 1<sup>st</sup> draft to your thesis chair on your thesis topic</li> <li>6. If possible, complete your written Prospectus and present your Prospectus to your committee for</li> </ol>	Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> year

	<p>their review(not required at this point)</p> <p>7. If your written and oral defense of your Prospectus has not been completed by the end of this semester you will receive an incomplete in this course.</p>	
Finalize Prospectus and prepare for research	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If not completed Spring 1<sup>st</sup> year, present your Prospectus to your committee (must receive a passing score on both the oral and written portions prior to enrolling in any Thesis hours)</li> <li>2. Once prospectus is completed your Thesis Chair must notify the instructor for PSY 652 so that your incomplete can be changed to a grade.</li> <li>3. Submit 5 page proposal with committee signature page to graduate school <a href="http://www.wcu.edu/graduate/forms.html">http://www.wcu.edu/graduate/forms.html</a></li> <li>4. Complete IRB</li> </ol>	Fall 2 <sup>nd</sup> year through Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> year (must all be completed prior to beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> year internship when you enroll in Thesis hours)
Complete research and write thesis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with thesis chair to collect and analyze data</li> <li>2. Work with thesis chair to complete the written thesis.</li> </ol>	This can occur anytime after the IRB has been obtained (2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year in the program)
Thesis Defense	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with your thesis committee to schedule a date for the Thesis Defense</li> <li>2. Once the committee has passed your thesis, make all final corrections and follow graduate school guidelines for formatting and submitting to the graduate school.</li> </ol>	This must be completed no later than 4 weeks before the targeted graduation date.