

Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department
Graduate Project/Thesis Initiation

All AE and ME Graduate students are expected to complete a 6-unit project or thesis towards completing their MS degree from MAE Department.

Refer to the Graduate Student Survival Guide posted on www.engr.sjsu.edu/ragarwal for general information on project vs thesis.

Students are expected to enroll in the first course of the project/thesis course upon:

1. Satisfactory completion of all conditions for admission, if any,
2. Completion of a minimum of five (5) courses towards the MS degree,
3. Successful completion of the 'Competency in English' requirement,
4. Admission to Candidacy for Master's Degree.

Refer to the Graduate Student Survival Guide for the format of the Graduate Project/thesis proposal. The Project/Thesis description, required as part of the Proposal, is limited to two to three pages including:

- Title:** Title, topic, or headline for the study
- Background:** Provide a brief overview of the current state of the topic of your interest.
- Objectives:** Describe your specific goals towards advancing the state of the topic.
- Deliverables:** A list of items you will provide such as a software with documentation, developing a new theory with complete justification, or a piece of hardware to demonstrate or prove a concept.
- Timeline:** Your schedule for delivery of the study such as start date, research activities, defining conceptual goals, fabrication of hardware, report submission, semester presentation, and delivery of the semester report.

Students are expected to identify a project/thesis and select a Project/Thesis Chair to discuss the goals and objectives of the study. The Project/Thesis Chair will assist the student in identifying committee members for the project/thesis. After the student has written the proposal and received agreement by other Committee members to help the student in the study, the proposal needs to be approved by the Committee Chair, Graduate Coordinator, and the Department Chair.

All student are expected to meet as a group each Friday 4-5:15pm to obtain information on the project/thesis requirement, clarify the project/thesis goals and objectives, and make progress presentations.