

Department of Educational Studies, Rubric for 1-Credit Senior Thesis

Students will have a research question that:

- demonstrates understanding of issues in the fields they choose to study
- bridges the two disciplines of their special major
- is justified using existing literature in the field
- is focused enough to limit the research but broad enough to provide for thoughtful exploration

Students will explore appropriate theory and research in the field(s) and:

- provide an explanation of how literature is identified for review
- identify/construct a conceptual framework that allows for a systematic exploration of the research question
- complete a literature review that frames the research question

Students will take a position and develop a strong argument:

- stating clearly a novel position on the research topic
- using the literature review to frame the argument
- acknowledging alternate positions, anticipating counter-arguments, and addressing why these data best support the argument that s/he has made
- using the argument/position to provide (and motivate) a thread of continuity in each section of paper

Students will produce an effective paper presenting their review that includes:

- a statement of the research question and methods of conducting the review
- a review of literature that provides an analysis of the question
- a discussion of the relation between the research reviewed and prior work in the field
- a reflection on the limitations of the review
- **and uses effective writing techniques that are**
 - grammatically and mechanically correct
 - structurally coherent/well argued