



The Graduate Written Thesis—Start Early, Seek Support

The graduate written thesis—an accompaniment to the thesis body of work and a requirement for all RISD graduate students—is a highlight of the graduate experience. It's also a complex challenge, requiring intensive research, rigorous thought, sharp articulation, and considered book design. RISD offers a wide range of support for the written thesis, which we encourage you to draw from liberally and early, starting in your very first semester.

Master's Written Thesis Handbook

Distributed to all incoming and returning graduate students, the *Master's Written Thesis Handbook*, by long-time Graduate Studies faculty Anne West, is an invaluable guide to both the spirit and the logistics of the thesis.

Departmental Guidelines

Each graduate department has a different philosophy and set of expectations around the written thesis. You will receive a set of guidelines outlining length, content, and other requirements from your Graduate Program Director.

Thesis Committees

You will select or be assigned a thesis committee in the fall semester of your final year. These experts in your studio discipline and/or research interests will be active sounding boards throughout your thesis process.

Departmental Written Thesis Courses

Some departments (Digital + Media, Photography, and Graphic Design, for example) offer or require written-thesis courses that support the development of your ideas and expression.

Graduate Studies Written Thesis Courses

Anne West's thesis-prep, writing-intensive courses "Betwixt and Between" and "Mapping the Intelligence of Artistic Work" invite deep inquiry into inspiration, process, and context. Other writing-intensive courses, such as Debra Balkan's "Critical Issues in Contemporary Art," often help generate material for the written thesis.

Graduate Written Thesis Wintersession Workshops

Open to graduate students in all departments, these workshops are designed to clarify, inspire, inform, and support the development of the thesis. Led by Anne West and Jennifer Liese, along with guest speakers, four sessions focus on: the range of possible content and formats; research; writing an abstract and outline; and designing the thesis book.

Fleet Library

The Fleet Library houses a vast archive of graduate theses that offer practical models and inspiration. RISD librarians offer individual research consultation to all graduate students. See <http://risd.libguides.com/thesis> to learn more about research support and methods.

Liberal Arts Faculty

RISD's Liberal Arts professors are a tremendous resource for graduate thesis writers, acting as committee members or informal advisors. A list of their research and teaching interests will be distributed in the fall.

RISD Writing Center

The RISD Writing Center (www.risdwritingcenter.com) offers peer consultation in writing for all RISD students. Grads may make one-hour appointments to review the thesis at any stage; weekly mentoring is available for those who are either especially interested in or challenged by the thesis-writing process.

Peer Feedback

Your peers are often the most constructive thesis readers. The Writing Center offers a set of peer-review guidelines; past grad students have held potluck thesis-writing workshops.

Outside Copy Editors

In the spring, the Writing Center distributes a list of local copy editors available for hire for those seeking comprehensive writing assistance.