

## **Thesis**

*How should I organize my thesis?* Because the goal of doing research is ultimately to disseminate the results in the form of journal publications, the Environmental Engineering faculty generally recommend that you organize your thesis as a collection of separate papers sandwiched between thorough Introduction and brief Conclusions chapters. Each of the paper chapters would contain their own Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions sections.

Alternatively, a thesis may be organized as one large paper, with single Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions chapters. Generally, though, this type of thesis is unwieldy to write and challenging to read -- and you don't want to give your committee a thesis that's challenging to read!

## **Thesis Defense**

At the completion of your research work, you must prepare and defend a research thesis covering all aspects of your research. A complete version of the thesis must be distributed to thesis committee members at least 14 *days* prior to the scheduled defense. You must "advertise" your thesis defense within the department (by email and posters) and schedule it in a room that holds at least 25 people.

The defense consists of a public presentation (lasting no longer than 45 minutes), public questions (10 minutes), and a private examination by the thesis committee.

The thesis committee examination will result in either a consensus of approval or requirements for the successful completion of the thesis. Final completion of the thesis will be contingent on the approval of required changes by all members of the thesis committee. Note that it is unwise to ignore changes suggested by a conscientious committee -- committee members who put their time into improving your work will be reluctant to approve your thesis or help you in your future career if you do not heed their advice now.

You should schedule your final defense with at least 4 weeks remaining in the semester that you wish to graduate to allow time to make changes required by the committee.

A final requirement for your degree is to thoroughly and carefully clean your lab space, properly dispose of hazardous chemicals, and assure that all instrumentation you used is in proper working condition. You also have an obligation to pass on your knowledge of lab techniques and instruments to your fellow students.