

Thesis Option Essay Requirements

Students seeking approval to pursue the Thesis Option must submit an essay that:

1. Briefly describes any previous research experience (academic preparation or professional experience); and
2. Indicates the applicant's specific research area of interest, accompanied by a brief narrow-scope literature review relevant to that potential research area.

The Admissions Committee will review the essay with these criteria in mind:

1. Must be no more than 6 pages in length. (Suggested guidelines: Description of research experience is no more than 1 page; Description of research area and literature review together are approximately 4-5 pages.)
2. Submitted in APA style, including in-text citations and a reference list.
3. Proofed for spelling, grammar, and punctuation before submission.
4. Writing is clear and concise, and ideas follow a logical order.
5. Research area of interest is clearly stated and relevant to the field of restorative practices, with context provided.
6. Presents a clear analysis and synthesis that demonstrates insight into the topic, and conclusions are supported.
7. Sources are recent, high-quality research studies published in peer-reviewed journals and books, as well as successful theses or dissertations submitted as part of research degree awards and other credible online sources (e.g. .org and .gov sources) - as opposed to briefs, blogs, or websites of doubtful credibility.