

Warner Graduate School of Education Higher Education Program

All Higher Education Master's students must complete a culminating experience as part of the degree requirements for the state of New York and the Warner School. Students may meet the culminating experience requirement via a Master's paper for academic credit, a Master's paper without academic credit, or a culminating exam without academic credit. This document outlines the expectations for the Master's paper.

Guidelines for the Higher Education Master's Degree Paper

Registration for Academic Credit: Students doing the Master's paper for academic credit must register for EDE 461 Master's Culminating Requirement: Higher Education (3 credits), which will count toward the total 36 credit degree requirement.

Registration without Academic Credit: Students who are doing the Master's paper but not for academic credit will register for EDE 461 Master's Culminating Requirement: Higher Education (0 credits). Students must still meet the 36 credit degree requirement.

Paper Timeframe: The paper is intended to be completed in one semester unless there are special circumstances approved by the Master's paper advisor that would warrant a longer timeframe.

Paper Scheduling. The paper is generally done during the final semester of the program unless otherwise approved by the student's faculty advisor. Students may do their Master's paper any academic term. Fall and summer terms papers are done on an independent study basis with a Master's paper sponsor. In spring term a Master's paper seminar is offered in addition to the independent study option.

Master's Paper Sponsor: Any member of the Higher Education faculty can serve as a paper sponsor with permission and if their academic load allows. The sponsor will work with the student to develop the project and to conduct the evaluation of the project upon completion. The sponsor is responsible for reporting the student's successful completion via the EDE 461 grading process.

Content: The paper generally may be a review and critique of a body of literature; a sustained well-supported argument for a position or proposition relating to a current or emerging issue in higher education (e.g. a matter of educational policy); a historical analysis; or other relevant topic. Students may undertake a research-based study if the student has appropriate research skills, project support, and the project fits the necessary timeframe.

Format: The intent of the paper is for the student to provide the quality content necessary to support the topic, thus there is not a fixed length requirement for the paper. Papers are expected to be a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 40 pages of text in length unless extensions are approved by the thesis sponsor. The paper must use proper APA Master's paper format.

Evaluation: The Master's paper is expected to demonstrate quality graduate-level writing and will be assessed for content, logic of arguments, the use of appropriate evidence, writing style, grammar, punctuation, and appropriate use of APA style. The final grade for the Master's paper will be either an "S" (satisfactory/pass) or "U" (unsatisfactory/fail).

Other Notes

Academic Integrity: Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, in this course will be treated seriously –all work must be your own and the work of others must be properly cited as appropriate. The University of Rochester's "Academic Honesty Policy" and related judicial processes is found on pp. 49-52 in the Graduate Bulletin's Regulations and University Policies Concerning Graduate Study or online at the following location:
<https://www.rochester.edu/GradBulletin>

Accessibility Accommodations: The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall. You may also contact Mary Judge, Warner's Disability Resource Coordinator at mjudge@warner.rochester.edu; (585) 275-2454; or LeChase Hall 390.

Writing Support Services: The Warner School offers free services to help students with academic writing: individual or group consultations and writing workshops. The mission of the Warner School Writing Support Services is to create a supportive atmosphere for dialog about the writing process. The consultants are readers offer a non-directive, responsive approach to providing students with the strategies needed to learn productive habits in all stages of writing. If you have questions please email: warnerwritingsupport@warner.rochester.edu. To schedule an appointment please visit: <https://www.warner.rochester.edu/students/academics/writing>