

UNC Folklore MA Timeline and Requirements (January 2015)

<p>Fall of first year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOLK 850 Approaches to Folklore Theory • One course taught by member of Folklore core facultyⁱ • One other courseⁱⁱ • Periodic conversations with preliminary advisor and/or program coordinator to identify interests, meet relevant faculty in other departments, strategize courses to take, anticipate applications for summer funding, etc. • Satisfy (or make plans to satisfy) foreign language requirementⁱⁱⁱ 	<p>Spring of first year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOLK 860 The Art of Ethnography • One course taught by member of Folklore core faculty • One other course • Identify thesis topic and thesis committee chair; contact additional thesis committee members^{iv} • April 1—submit Preliminary Research Plan^v to thesis committee chair and Folklore Program Coordinator; post on “Folklore MA thesis proposal” Sakai site <p>Summer between first and second years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk of field research for thesis • Prepare full draft of critical literature review^{vi}
<p>Fall of second year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One course taught by member of Folklore core faculty • One other course (may be postponed to Spring) • FOLK 993 Master’s Thesis (register with chair of thesis committee); • By mid-September—submit thesis proposal^{vii} and critical literature review to thesis committee chair • By end of September—submit revised thesis proposal and critical literature review to all committee members • By mid-October—thesis proposal meeting, including oral exam based on critical literature review^{viii}; post thesis proposal on “Folklore MA thesis proposal” Sakai site • October and November—read materials from thesis bibliography • By mid-November—submit detailed outline of thesis to all committee members • By end of semester—meet individually with committee members for feedback on thesis outline 	<p>Spring of second year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOLK 993 Master’s Thesis (register with chair of thesis committee) • One other course if not taken in Fall • January and February—meet with thesis adviser at least every other week to discuss sections or drafts of thesis • By mid-February—submit good full draft to thesis committee chair^{ix} • By March 1—receive feedback from thesis committee chair • By mid-March—submit revised version of thesis to all committee members^x • By last week of March—thesis defense^{xi} • Early April—revise thesis on basis of defense and obtain thesis committee chair’s approval of final version • Submit final version of thesis electronically to Graduate School well before deadline http://gradschool.unc.edu/academics/resources/graddeadlines.html usually 4pm on the second Monday in April.^{xii} • April or May—symposium for presentation of theses to faculty, students, and guests

ⁱ Usually a course numbered 400 or above; with instructor's permission a graduate student may participate in a lower numbered course and do additional work for graduate credit—in that case the graduate student signs up for independent study with the professor

ⁱⁱ Usually a course at UNC, decided upon in consultation with the coordinator of the Folklore Program or the student's preliminary advisor or thesis committee chair. To register for courses at other area universities, see: <http://registrar.unc.edu/registration/special-enrollments/inter-institutional-programs/>

ⁱⁱⁱ To satisfy the language requirement the student:

- Passes the graduate school foreign language proficiency assessment <http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/gflpa.html>, first enrolling in FREN 601, SPAN 601, or GERM 601 & 602 to improve proficiency if necessary; or
- Takes language courses up through 204 (the 4th semester) and passes with a B or better, or arranges to be tutored. (Courses below 400 do not confer graduate credit.)
- Native speakers of a language other than English or those who earned a BA or MA in a language are considered to have demonstrated proficiency.
- A student may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to have other experience or evidence of competence satisfy the requirement.

^{iv} Composition of thesis committee: chair and one other must be members of Folklore core faculty; 3rd is a faculty member from any UNC department or other university or occasionally a scholar with a terminal degree working outside the academy—scholars from outside UNC must be appointed by the department chair as fixed term graduate faculty <http://gradschool.unc.edu/policies/faculty-staff/faculty/>; occasionally committees include a 4th member involved in the group or topic the student is studying.

^v The preliminary research plan need be no more than 2 pages plus a 1-page bibliography. In it the student outlines his/her thesis statement or research question, his/her plans for conducting research and obtaining funding to do so, and the composition of his/her thesis committee.

^{vi} The critical literature review is an extended bibliographic essay (18-25 pages)—based primarily on course readings. See separate detailed instructions.

^{vii} The thesis proposal should be 5-10 pages, (1250-2500 words), exclusive of the bibliography. In it the student should:

- succinctly state the key research question (the thesis statement);
- briefly outline the central topic and core issues;
- discuss the methodology and describe the data already collected and additional research that needs to be done;
- briefly situate the investigation within the relevant factual and theoretical literature;
- offer a substantial bibliography (portions of which the student will read after the proposal meeting).

^{viii} At the proposal meeting the student should be prepared to defend his/her plan of research and to field questions about his/her critical literature review. Committee members ascertain that the student is prepared to undertake the proposed work within the field of Folklore and specify additional reading needed to complete the student's preparation.

^{ix} The thesis should be 35-50 pages long, exclusive of notes, bibliography, illustrations, and appendices. It should be based on original field and/or archival research and present an argument with the degree of detail and thoroughness represented in our discipline's major scholarly journals (such as the *Journal of American Folklore*) or other journals suggested as models by the student's thesis committee chair.

^x The thesis should follow the format specified in the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Guide <http://gradschool.unc.edu/etdguide/>

^{xi} The thesis defense offers the student an opportunity to present and defend his/her argument, to discuss the thesis with the committee in the context of the student's broader intellectual development, and to receive instructions for revision of the thesis for submission to the Graduate School and for possible submission to a journal for publication.

^{xii} See instructions in the Submission section of the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Guide <http://gradschool.unc.edu/etdguide/submission.html>