

Proposal for Master's Culminating Experience

Current *Graduate Catalog* copy:

Culminating Experience

Each student must pass a graduate culminating experience which may take the form of a comprehensive exam, thesis defense, project presentation, or other appropriate capstone evaluation. Students must be enrolled during the semester in which they take the comprehensive examination or any other type of culminating experience.

Revised Proposal:

Culminating Experience

The intent of graduate education is to provide broad exposure to a specific discipline, culminating in an independently researched comprehensive ~~assessment~~ demonstration of a student's competence in the field. For both the Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees, the culminating experience is normally a thesis or written comprehensive examination. In some cases, MA or MS programs may substitute another culminating experience, such as an independent research project, internship, portfolio, or capstone course. Such substitutions must be formally approved through ~~Faculty Governance~~ the graduate curriculum review process. ~~Students may not undertake the culminating experience until they have completed their coursework or until the final courses are in progress. Students must be enrolled during the semester in which they take the comprehensive examination or any other type of culminating experience.~~

A few graduate programs offer professional (non-research) master's degrees in designated fields. Most professional master's programs at UNC Charlotte require a culminating experience. In rare cases, a professional master's degree program may seek approval, via the graduate curriculum review process ~~Faculty Governance~~, to waive the culminating experience requirement provided the program can sufficiently demonstrate that this practice is consistent with the guidelines of its field and/or accreditation requirements (*note: the culminating experience requirement cannot be waived for individual students*).

Commented [BJ1]: Changed to "demonstration"

Commented [BJ2]: Changed to "graduate curriculum review process"

Commented [BJ3]: Removed.

Commented [BJ4]: Added.

Commented [BJ5]: Changed to "graduate curriculum review process"