

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Application for Approval of Thesis Options for the Master of Divinity
2016-2017

In the senior year, the candidate will elect one of the following options (a) six credits for a thesis or a senior project or (b) six credits from elective courses. The student will declare the option chosen for fulfilling this final six-credit requirement below. A thesis or a senior project must be approved by members of the faculty and by the academic dean. ***Please note that your declared Program Focus may recommend a particular option.***

If the thesis option is chosen, the thesis subject must be reported to the registrar by November 18 in the senior year. The student obtains the approval of the faculty member(s) who agree to serve as thesis advisor/first reader and second reader. (A thesis advisor is not necessarily the same professor who serves as the student's program advisor, *but the first reader must be a member of the faculty.*) The thesis will be due on April 7 (or the first business day thereafter).

If the option of a senior project is chosen, the subject and a brief description of the scope of the project must be reported to the registrar by November 18, after it has been approved by the members of the faculty who have agreed to supervise the project. (This faculty approval corresponds to the role of "first reader" and "second reader" in the case of a thesis.) A senior project may invoke a range of possibilities, different from the research essay indicated by the thesis option. (Some examples are art exhibit, performance, play-writing, musical composition.) The idea for, and the shape of, a student's senior project must of course be accepted by the faculty member who agrees to direct the student's work. The requirements of the project, and of the faculty member's expectations of the project, will be established for the individual student's case at that time, but *all senior projects must include a written academic paper of approximately 12-20 pages.* Like the thesis, a senior project must be completed by April 7. At that time it will be evaluated by the faculty supervisors.

It is important to note that by choosing one of the options below, and obtaining the faculty member's signatures, you are committing yourself to your choice. **The registrar cannot allow changes between the three options once this form has been filed with the Registrar's Office.** Therefore, it is important to consider your choices carefully, and in conversation with your faculty advisor, and prospective thesis advisors.

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 20th.
IF YOU ARE NOT PLANNING TO GRADUATE NEXT MAY, PLEASE INDICATE THIS BELOW.

_____ It is my intention to write a thesis. Attach a thesis proposal to this form. I have consulted with the faculty member(s) who have agreed to be my readers. The working title of my written thesis is:

_____ It is my intention to do a senior project. I have consulted with the faculty member(s) who will be my primary and secondary supervisors for this project. The scope of my project will be:

_____ I will choose two additional elective courses to fulfill my Thesis requirement. These courses, which cannot be taken for "R" credit, will be:

_____ **I am not graduating this May.**

Candidate's Name _____ **Date** _____

To the Registrar: I approve the thesis subject/project working title stated above and agree to advise the student in this work.

First Reader's signature (signature required)

Second Reader's signature (optional; if not signed, 2nd reader will be assigned in the Academic Office.)