

THE THESIS TIMELINE

The thesis process usually takes 18 months to complete:

1. Your thesis topic must be *first be approved* by the research advisor before beginning to write your thesis proposal.

2. Writing the Thesis Proposal:

Please be aware that writing your thesis proposal is a *reiterative process*.

- First, the student should create a hypothesis that must be approved by the research advisor.
- Second, the student should complete the document titled “Clarifying the thesis hypothesis” which is to be passed in with the thesis.
- Third, the student should write the Thesis Proposal. Students usually write 3-4 drafts before the proposal is accepted. Usually each draft can be turned around in two to three weeks; it can take up to one month.

3. The research advisor will find you a suitable Harvard thesis director. Usually, this process takes about 3-4 months.

4. **YOU MAY NOT BEGIN YOUR THESIS WORK UNTIL BOTH AN APPROPRIATE HARVARD PROFESSOR AND THE RESEARCH ADVISOR HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR THESIS PROPOSAL.**

5. The actual thesis work will take 9 months.