

PROPOSAL AND THESIS MYTHS

Proposal Myths

Myth #1: That an old term paper can easily be recycled as an ALM thesis, with just a few minor embellishments.

Myth #2: That any subject you choose is suitable.

Myth #3: That writing the thesis is largely a matter of selecting an “easy” topic and avoiding a “difficult” topic.

Myth #4: That the proposal is just a vague statement of what you might do in the thesis; that the actual research can come later, while you’re writing the thesis.

Myth #5: That you should already be an expert on the subject of your thesis before you undertake the project.

Myth #6: That hypotheses are easy to come by, and you can expect to begin your project with one, whether you’ve done any research or not.

Thesis Director Myths

Myth #7: That we can find a thesis director for any subject.

Myth #8: That the research advisor “appoints” a thesis director for your project and can therefore sign someone up very quickly.

Myth #9: That you will likely spend a great deal of time with your thesis director, who will support you every inch of the way.

Administrative Myths

Myth #10: That the deadlines in the GUIDE TO THE ALM THESIS are meaningless.

Myth #11: That graduating by a certain date is largely a matter of letting the ALM office know when you intend to do so; that the rules will be waived for you, if necessary, in order to help you make your intended deadline.

Proposal and Thesis Myths

Myth #12: That the technical and stylistic aspects of thesis writing don’t matter—after all, no one cares about spelling errors and format problems.

Myth #13: That it’s a waste of time to read the GUIDE TO THE ALM THESIS or pay attention to its instructions until the last possible minute.

Fantasy Myths

Myth #14: That all of the above are myths for everyone else, but true for you.

