

## **Instructions for graduation paper (final exam) in MSE**

**Deadlines: Spring: March 1, Summer: June 15, Fall: October 31**

Each student who wants to graduate with a non-thesis master's needs to submit one final paper, which is considered as final exam in MSE. The paper has to be submitted within the last 6 months before graduation. Additionally, deadlines for latest submissions exist in each semester.

The non-thesis master's paper may be a description of some research, which you have performed, a review of a research topic that you have authored, or a discussion of a technical subject in which you are interested. It is not to be a copy of a paper or proposal written for a course. It is not to be a copy of a published paper. The UF honor code applies to this work! <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>

Your manuscript should contain between 1200 and 1500 words. Title, name, affiliation, references, and figures are not included in the word count. You must print your word count at the beginning of the paper. No limit on figures or tables. At least 15 references from literature (from old to current), avoid books and websites if possible and provide the references as a list at the end.

Please use correct citation style and do not copy sentences or chapters from other sources unless they are properly indicated as citations. Indicate the source of the figures. You do not have to get copyright for the figures or other properly cited work that you reproduce. This assignment uses TURNITIN software to check for originality of your work.

### **Format Guide for Technical Paper Requirement for Master's Non-thesis Degree**

#### **1. Title**

**Graduate Student's Name**

**Materials Science and Engineering Department**

**Word count (excluding title, name, figures, tables and references): XXXX**

**2. Abstract or Summary** – This should state the purpose of the paper and the summary or conclusions, as appropriate.

**3. Introduction** - This should contain the general idea of either a research topic or technical subject matter. It should explain why the topic is important and the ways that are being used to study the topic. This section should also contain what is being covered in this brief manuscript.

**4. Materials and Methods or Background** - This section should contain the material of interest and the methodology used to study it. If it is a review paper, then a brief background of the technical content.

**5. Discussion** - This section should contain a brief discussion of any results either obtained by the student or examined in the literature.

**6. Conclusions/Summary** - This section should contain either a conclusion based on your own work or a summary of the point of the technical subject derived from literature research.

**6. References** - Include any references used in your laboratory or library research.

## GRADUATION TERM PAPER GRADING RUBRIC

**Pass is 70% or higher score.**

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**Submission on e-learning required starting Fall semester 2017**

### **Title, Abstract, and Conclusions (Out of 10 points)**

1. Abstract and conclusions demonstrates importance of the work and summarizes. (10/10)
2. Abstract or conclusions allude to importance of the work and are either convoluted or do not convey the key message(s). (8/10)
3. Title, abstract or conclusions do not demonstrate importance of the work. Focus is nonexistent. (6/10)
4. Title, abstract or conclusions missing, or severely lacking in effort. (<6/10)

### **Introduction (Out of 10 points)**

1. Introduction demonstrates importance of the work and shows how knowledge in this specific field can have broader impacts on humanity or society. Focus goes from broad to narrow leading into the content sections. (10/10)
2. Introduction alludes to importance of the work and is either convoluted or does not convey how this field could impact everyday life. Focusing does not happen and doesn't lead into content sections well. (8/10)
3. Introduction doesn't demonstrate importance of the work and does not mention how knowledge in this field can impact society. Focus is nonexistent, and the introduction does not lead into the content sections at all. (6/10)
4. Introduction missing, or severely lacking in effort. (<6/10)

### **Content (including tables and figures) (Out of 50 points)**

1. Argument is well supported and information is presented in an easily understandable way which ties into the introduction. Clearly ties in outside original research articles as well as other review papers in with EMA 6136 course themes. Includes 3-5 important figures which aide in the conveying of information. Paper is 1200-1500 words long. (50/50)
2. Argument is supported and information is presented in a somewhat understandable way. Loosely ties in outside review papers in with EMA 6136 course themes. Includes 1-3 figures which may or may not support the argument. Paper is less than 1200 or greater than 1500 words long. (45/50)
3. Argument is not well supported and information is presented in a confusing way. Either restates published review articles or does not tie in with EMA 6136 course themes. Includes 1-2 figures which are either not well integrated to the paper and or do not pertain. Paper length clearly less than 1000 words. (30/50)
4. Clearly missed the scope of the assignment. (<30/50)

### **Organization and Clarity (Out of 20 points)**

1. Paper is thoughtfully laid out, has a logical flow throughout all sections with little to no grammar and spelling mistakes. (20/20)
2. Minor issues with layout and disjointed flow throughout a few of the sections. Paper has sparse grammatical and or spelling related errors. (15/20)
3. Confusing layout, flow is nonexistent throughout a few of the sections. Paper has sufficient spelling and grammar mistakes to impede understanding. (10/20)
4. Paper layout makes no logical sense, unintelligible writing and the paper clearly does not meet assignment expectations. (<10/20)

### **References (Out of 10 points)**

1. Important works in the field cited and used to support the main ideas of the paper. References section formatted correctly using a recognized template (IEEE, ACS, etc) and in-text citations done properly. More than 10 peer-reviewed references cited. References span a period over 10 years from oldest to newest. (10/10)
2. Lacks some important works from the field. Formatting is mostly correct and or the references section uses an unorthodox format. In text citations are done properly. More than 8 peer reviewed references are cited. References cover a period of less than 10 years. (8/10)
3. A few helpful citations are included. Formatting of references section is done incorrectly and could not be used to find the sources in question. No in text citations. More than 6 peer reviewed references are cited. References are outdated. (6/10)
4. Fewer than six peer reviewed references cited. Citations come from non-peer reviewed sources. (<6/10)