

# CMS Thesis Proposal Timeline

Oct 2017 Revision

**Identify** a general field of study and approach potential thesis advisor during **the Fall semester of your junior year**.

*If you are studying abroad during the Fall semester of your junior year, you should complete this step during the first half of the Winter semester of your junior year.*

In your junior year, you will be expected to attend a meeting for all thesis writers in CMS. These will be held in the second half of the Fall semester and in the Winter semester.

**Develop** a proposal for a specific topic, including annotated bibliography, as detailed in "[Writing the Proposal](#)" during the **winter semester and short term of your junior year** if you intend to write in the Fall semester of your senior year.

*If you are studying abroad in the Winter semester and you intend to write in the Fall, you should work on your proposal remotely and in conjunction with your advisor. If you are studying abroad in the Winter semester and you intend to write in the subsequent Winter semester, you should finalize your proposal in conjunction with your advisor over the Fall semester.*

Wherever you are in the Winter semester of your junior year, you must have a thesis advisor in place before the semester ends.

**Submit thesis proposal** by the penultimate Monday of the short term in your junior year, if you intend to write in the Fall semester of your senior year, or by the first Monday after Thanksgiving break if you intend to write in the Winter semester of your senior year.

**Incorporate** faculty feedback, continue research, and begin working on first chapter over the summer or over December break.

**Write!** You should arrive in the first week of your thesis semester ready to begin weekly meetings, having thought recently and substantially about your topic and ready to discuss the general shape of the thesis and a chapter outline.

See the "Recommended Schedule" section of the CMS Senior Thesis Guidelines

You should expect to have developed a timetable for writing, editing and chapter submission with your advisor in the first two weeks.

Your adviser may require you attend certain meetings relevant to the thesis writing process itself.

**Submit your thesis** by the last day of classes of your thesis semester. Celebrate!