

Department of Kinesiology Graduate Handbook

The Department of Kinesiology offers graduate concentrations in Exercise Science with emphases in Human Fitness and Performance, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics and Motor Behavior.

Completing and MS in Kinesiology requires 36 hours, including:

Core Courses (15 hours)

- KIN 5361 - Biomechanical Basis of Sport
- KIN 5372 - Advanced Exercise Physiology
- KIN 5373 - Motor Learning and Control

Statistics – choose one:

- KINO 6370 – Introduction to Statistics (offered online)
- PSYC 5310 – Statistics I: Applied Correlation and Regression
- EDRS 5340 – Advanced Statistics
- SOCI 5312 – Seminar in Advanced Measurement and Inference
- STATS 5328 – Introduction to Statistical Analysis

Research Methods – choose one:

- KINO 6372 – Research Methods (offered online)
- EDRS 5305 – Educational Research and Statistics
- EDRS 5306 – Qualitative Research
- PSYC 5311 – Statistics II: Experimental Design
- DRSC 5389 – Research for the Health Sciences
- HSCI 5352 – Evaluation in Health Promotion/Education

* The graduate advisor may approve other statistics and/or research methods courses.

Exercise Science Courses (6 hours):

- KIN 5371 – Measurement Techniques in Exercise Physiology
- KIN 5374 – Measurement Techniques in Biomechanics

Electives:

- Nine hours from Kinesiology or related area that supports the student's research focus (all elective hours are subject to approval by graduate advisor).

Project Option (requires more course work)

- KIN 5397 Graduate Project

Thesis Option (requires more research)

- KIN 5398 Graduate Thesis I
- KIN 5399 Graduate Thesis II

Graduate Student Admission and Progress Checklist

- Apply for admission to the graduate school. You will be notified by e-mail regarding your admission status.
- With the approval of a Graduate Coordinator, begin taking courses.
- Identify a graduate faculty advisor to work with for the remainder of your academic program.
- Provisional Admitted students: Once you have met the admission conditions, notify the Graduate Coordinator to change admission status.
- Complete Preliminary Program of Study before completing three credit hours.
- With you advisor choose a thesis or project topic and identify your committee members.
- Complete all course work, including thesis or project (minimum of 36 credit hours).
- Complete Application for Graduation
- Complete project paper or thesis and successfully defend it.

Thesis & Project Policy

- After you select a thesis advisor and begin working on your thesis, you must enroll in KIN 5398 or KIN 5399. If you need more than two semesters to complete your thesis, you must enroll in KIN 5399 (3 semester credit hours) each semester that you continue to work on your thesis.
- Under the direction of your thesis committee, you will collect and analyze data, write the thesis and file it with the Graduate School. You are responsible for meeting published university deadlines.
- If you want to work on your thesis during the summer, you must have approval from your thesis advisor.
- Thesis and project defense meetings must be completed on or prior to dead day to allow time for revisions prior to the submission deadline of the Graduate School.
- Grading – The grade Satisfactory Progress (P) is assigned for thesis until you complete your thesis work and it is approved. The P grade will be converted to a traditional letter grade within two years.
- Your final grade will not be recorded until you submit your work to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Thesis Organization and Format

The thesis consists of two formats. The first format included a comprehensive literature review providing relevant details of the primary research papers relevant to the thesis topic. The second format is in the form of a manuscript for submission to a specific journal approved by the thesis committee. Contact the Graduate Coordinator for typing and page formatting rules.

Steps for Completing the Thesis

- Request a thesis advisor from UTEP Kinesiology Graduate Faculty. Select a thesis topic.
- Enroll in KIN 5398 and begin work on your proposal.
- With an advisor's help, select project committee (minimum of three members including chair). Approach potential committee members, explain project idea, and ask about their willingness to serve.
- A minimum of two faculty (one being chair) from within the Kinesiology Department and one from outside of the program are required.
- Additional committee members may be chosen including faculty from other universities.
- Prepare an extended literature review, introduction and methods section using the format of the targeted research journal. Work closely with your advisor since many revisions will usually be required.

Formal Proposal to Thesis Committee

- Submit a written proposal to committee members two weeks before the oral proposal meeting. Your advisor's approval is required before you submit to the committee
- Formal oral presentation of thesis proposal should be 15-20 minutes. Dress professionally.
- If the committee approves the proposal, required revisions will be documented and signed by all members. Revise your proposal as agreed upon by your advisor.
- Enroll in KIN 5399.
- Submit your proposal to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects for Human Subjects Approval Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Collect and analyze data.
- Finish your manuscript (results and discussion) following UTEP Guidelines and approved manuscript style (APA or target journal style).

Thesis Defense

- Schedule your defense with your committee members. Schedule an appropriate room for defense
- Submit the complete manuscript and extended literature review to your committee members two weeks before your scheduled defense and make a copy available one week before your defense in the department secretary's office.
- Prepare a formal oral presentation (approximately 20-30 minutes) of your research project for your committee and interested parties. Dress professionally.
- Expect and answer questions from audience.
- After the audience is dismissed, you will be asked questions by your committee. You will be informed of the results and of the corrections you must make.
- Committee will sign the thesis approval page. Bring this page to defense. Make all revisions and submit to your advisor for final approval and signature. Schedule appointment with graduate school to obtain approval for format.
- The final version of the thesis must be submitted in PDF format on a CD (one copy in a case) for approval to the Dean of the Graduate School by the deadline date for the semester you plan to graduate. This copy will be retained by the UTEP Library.
- Along with a copy of the title page, the defense form and signature page with original signatures of committee members should also be submitted.
- Master's students are required to go to the [ProQuest](#) website for electronic submission of the thesis. The fee is \$45.00.

Project Policy

- You must enroll in KIN 5397.
- You must be enrolled in the regular fall, spring or summer session in which your degree will be completed. If you want to work on your project during the summer, you must have the project chair's approval.
- Grading – The grade Satisfactory Progress (P) is assigned for thesis until you complete your project and it is approved. The P grade will be converted to a traditional letter grade within two years.
- You are responsible for meeting university deadlines

Steps for Completing the Final Project

- Request a UTEP Kinesiology graduate professor serve as project advisor.
- With an advisor's help, select a project topic and target an appropriate peer-reviewed journal for publication.
- Enroll in KIN 5397.
- With an advisor's help, select project committee (minimum of three members including chair). Approach potential committee members, explain project idea, and ask about their willingness to serve.
- A minimum of two faculty (one being chair) from within the Kinesiology Department and one from outside of the program are required.
- Additional committee members may be chosen including faculty from other universities.
- During first three weeks of the semester, schedule an informal proposal meeting with committee. Present committee with a written outline of your project and a written timeline for completion of the project.
- With an advisor's help, prepare an extended literature review relative to topic and prepare the manuscript using the format of the targeted journal.
- Finish manuscript following the appropriate guidelines and approved manuscript style. Advisor's permission is required before sending to committee.

Project Organization and Format

Projects do not require designing and executing an experiment. The project includes a critical review of literature and a written manuscript for submission to a specific journal approved by the project committee.