

MA THESES versus QUALIFYING PAPERS (QPs)

Students may choose to write a thesis provided they can propose worthy topics and find full-time faculty members to advise them. *Students wishing to pursue curatorial careers should seriously consider writing theses.* The below chart outlines basic differences between theses and qualifying papers (QPs):

Thesis

-50-60 pages

-*must* have a basic argument (or thesis statement) that defines and drives the entire scope of the thesis

-*must* make a contribution to the field of art history and/or museum studies

-*must* be thoroughly researched including primary and secondary source materials

-*must* be composed of an introduction, two or more chapters (each of which must relate to the overarching basic argument of the thesis), and a conclusion. Each chapter must also have its own specific thesis statement.

-ideas must be analyzed and historicized clearly, incorporating all significant material related to the chosen topic

Qualifying Papers

-2 Papers, 20-30 pages each

-*must* have a basic argument (or thesis statement) that dictates the scope of the paper

-*should* be a contribution to the field of art history and/or museum studies

-*must* be thoroughly researched

-*may* include subheadings for greater clarity to create distinctions in subject matter. Each subsection *must* relate to the overarching basic argument.

-ideas must be developed completely