

**Master of Science in Epidemiology
THESIS RESEARCH CONTRACT**

DATE PROPOSED: _____/_____/____

Course: PHC 6971

STUDENT NAME: _____REQUESTED CREDITS: _____

DETAILED PLAN AND DELIVERABLE: (Sections or chapters that will be completed by the conclusion of this registered thesis research course. Student must attach additional description.)

Check or fill in as appropriate

- REQUIRED. No part of this research has previously been submitted for course credit.
- I will meet with my Research Mentor _____ times a week to review my work.
- I expect to spend _____ hours a week engaged in this research.
- Number of credit hours in total enrolled in this semester ____; Course titles

Student Name	Signature	Date
Research Mentor/Supervisory Committee Chair Name	Signature	Date
MSE Program Director Name	Signature	Date

CREDITS APPROVED: _____ DATE COMPLETED: __ __/ __ __/ __ __ __ __

Guidelines for Thesis Research Study

- Students cannot get credit until the deliverable is completed.
- Students cannot get credit more than once for the same work or part of the work.
- Students can request the number of credits on the form, but it is up to the Program Director to determine what those credits should be. Students or Mentors can challenge credits.
- Section numbers will be created to designate the Research Mentor/Supervisory Committee Chair.
- Final approval of this Contract resides with the Program Director.

Written Thesis and Manuscript for Publication

Students are required to produce a publishable thesis. The thesis requires the student to formulate a research question, conduct relevant background research, generate hypotheses, gather and analyze appropriate data, interpret and discuss findings, determine conclusions and implications. Students must submit a written thesis consistent with UF requirements, and pass an oral defense of their research. The manuscript must be submitted for the thesis with the MSE Candidate as sole author. It must be submitted to a journal when the thesis defense process is complete. Competencies are only judged complete upon submission of the manuscript for publication. The grading rubric is attached at the end of this document. Additional information on the thesis and thesis defense are available in the MS Epidemiology Student Handbook and from the Graduate School.

Credit Guidelines

Number of Credits (variable)	Required Time Commitment and Deliverable
1 – 4 credits (may be taken over two terms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Requires at least 13 hours of face to face time requested with the Research Mentor/Supervisory Committee Chair over the period of the work per credit hour ☑ Expectation is that the number of hours of work will increase with additional credits ☑ Preparation of whole thesis is expected to be 4 credits; contracts for parts of the work should be proportional to this

Thesis Defense Rubric

Scoring Values

0 = Missing
 1 = Present, but does not meet expected standards
 2 = Some improvement possible
 3 = Criteria met

Criteria	Max	Score
Introduction and Background		
Clear problem statement/research question/hypothesis(es)	3	
Relevant literature cited and relevant theory used	3	
Clear statement of significance to field of epidemiology and public health relevance	3	
Methods		
Clear description of sample and appropriate choice of sample	3	
Clear description of data	3	
Appropriate choice of analytic methods	3	
Evidence of understanding of methodology	3	
Results		
Tables and figures clear and without error	3	
Comprehensive description of sample and findings	3	
Accurate presentation of findings	3	
Limitations discussed	3	
Relevance of findings discussed	3	
Quality of Product		
Implications to practice or policy and future research detailed	3	
Deemed ready for submission for publication	3	
Evidence of innovation or significance to field	3	
Total Possible (15 criteria)	45	
Target for Passing	39 (86%)	0%

Score of 86% is approximately a B+ level.