

**IV Research Proposal Outline  
and  
Course Curriculum**

**Graduate School of Letters**

# Outline of Research Advising

## Master's Program

### 1. Content of research advising in each semester

- 1st semester; Students determine a research theme and receive advisement on their plan to take courses. Students formulate a research proposal and learn research methodologies that are necessary for their research activities with regard to materials, surveys, and other matters. Students receive advisement on how to review previous studies in research fields that are related to the questions and research theme they are addressing.
- 2nd semester; Students reconsider or revise their research proposal according to progress in their efforts to implement the proposal. Students make presentations on and discuss previous studies and research methodologies related to their research theme to improve their presentation and discussion skills, which are necessary for furthering their research. Students consider the overall goal and structure of their master's thesis.
- 3rd semester; Students prepare to present their research findings in an organized manner, while conducting surveys, analyses, etc. based on their determined research theme in order to check the appropriateness of their research methodologies. In addition, they make interim reports on their research project at research presentation sessions held by each course or on other occasions.
- 4th semester; Students develop their research findings into a master's thesis and receive comprehensive advisement on the structure of the thesis, analysis results, expressions used in the thesis, etc. Students enhance the accuracy of their research and complete their master's thesis.

### 2. Outline of thesis presentation meetings (sessions) and the requirements for presentations

Students who wish to submit their master's thesis in the relevant semester are required to make presentations on the progress of their thesis writing and the achievements of their thesis at research report meetings or research presentation sessions held by each course or on other occasions. Details about how to make presentations are given by each course.

### 3. Research paper

The Courses consisting of English Language and Literature, Education, and International Culture and Communication Studies allow students to submit a research paper on a specific subject instead of a master's thesis. A research paper on a specific subject denotes a paper written based on practical surveys and research on a specific subject. Students who aim to submit a research paper on a specific subject must meet the following requirements in the process of submission.

#### Course of English Language and Literature

1. Students determine the title and content of the research paper in consultation with their academic supervisors.
2. Eligibility to submit a research paper on a specific subject requires students to accomplish research achievements that contribute to enhancing or improving the quality of educational practice and aim to acquire a teaching license for master's degree holders. Students who aim to advance to the Doctoral Program are not eligible to submit a research paper on a specific subject.

#### Course of Education

1. Students choose to submit a master's thesis or to submit a research paper on a specific subject in consultation with their academic supervisor and co-supervisors by the end of the 1st semester, in principle.
2. Students who aim to advance to the Doctoral Program are not eligible to submit a research paper on a specific subject ; they must submit a master's thesis.
3. Students who will submit a research paper on a specific subject must make presentations at the Master's thesis interim report meeting and the master's thesis achievement presentation session, just as other students do.
4. If the research paper on the specific subject deals with achievements of the student's own practical activities, including the development of curricula or educational materials, reports on practical research, and creative works and performances, the pages and words dedicated to such achievements can be counted towards the total number of pages and words of the paper.

#### Course of International Culture and Communication Studies

1. Students determine the title and content of the research paper in consultation with their academic supervisors.
2. Eligibility to submit a research paper on a specific subject requires students to accomplish practical achievements that contribute to enhancing the quality of education, including the development of curricula or educational materials, and reports on practical research, in the field of English education (in the case of students who aim to acquire a teaching certificate for master's degree holders) or Japanese language education. Students who aim to advance to the Doctoral Program are not eligible to submit a research paper on a specific subject.
3. Students who will submit a research paper on a specific subject must make reports at the master's thesis interim report meeting and the master's thesis achievement presentation session, just as other students do.

## Doctoral Program

### 1. Content of advisement in each semester

- 1st semester; Students determine a research theme and method based on the questions that they aim to address and the progress of their research, under the guidance of their academic supervisors and on the advice of their co-supervisors.  
Students formulate a research proposal, finalize details about material collection, surveys, etc., and establish a research schedule.
- 2nd semester; Students review previous studies related to their research theme and examine the achievements and challenges of previous studies.  
Students reconsider or revise their research proposal according to progress in their efforts to implement the proposal.  
Students make presentations on and discuss research methodologies and material analysis related to their research theme in order to further their research.  
Students develop plans to present their research at academic conferences and to write research papers for refereed academic society journals.
- 3rd semester; Students recheck and reconsider their research proposal in consultation with their academic supervisors, and develop a revised proposal if necessary.  
Students draft research papers to prepare to present them at academic conferences and submit them to academic journals.
- 4th semester; Students develop their research findings into academic papers and the like, and receive comprehensive advisement on the structure of the papers, analysis results, expressions used in the papers, and other matters.  
Students receive advisement in preparation for making academic conference presentations and submitting papers in Japan and/or abroad, and make presentations.
- 5th semester; Students make academic conference presentations and submit their papers in Japan and/or abroad, and modify and polish their doctoral thesis based on advice and criticisms about the presented or submitted papers.
- 6th semester; Students complete and submit their doctoral thesis based on the guidance and advice of their academic supervisors and co-supervisors.

### 2. Outline of thesis presentation meetings (sessions) and the requirements for presentations

PhD applicants who will submit their doctoral degree thesis (KOU) after completing the Doctoral Program must make presentations on the progress of their research and an outline of their thesis, etc. at report meetings held by the course, etc. or on other occasions before submitting their thesis.  
The presentations must clearly explain the history of research on the relevant subject and position the presenters' own research with respect to that history.