TPP Degree Completion, Etc.

September 2010

Topics

» Program Forms
  » P/D/F (nothing new at this time)
» Thesis
  » Timetables
» Dual Degrees
» PhD Applications
  » [not really relevant this term; see me if you want to discuss long term plans]
» Possible end of term presentations?

Program Forms

» We *really* should have one on file and approved by now
» Revisions need to be cleared
» Thesis supervision and topic
» Timetables for completion and "progress"

Thesis Deadlines

» Thesis topic approval: as early as possible (1st week of term preceding graduation)
  » Stellar Site: http://stellar.mit.edu/S/project/tppthesis/
  » Submission and "grades" managed centrally
  » Contact furd@mit.edu if you need your name added to the "classlist"
» Thesis "Proposal"
  » Due by Drop Date of term PRECEDING graduation
  » Look for an "Approved" grade
  » If you want more detailed comments/reviews, request by email to furd@mit.edu - or just arrange to meet
**Thesis Deadlines**

» Application for advanced degree due Sep 10 (THIS Friday!)
  - For June degree list, 04 February

» Theses due dates
  - 14 Jan 2011
  - 06 May 2011
  - 05 Aug 2011

» Hard deadlines
  - Extensions ONLY with credible demonstration of completion (e.g., nearly completed drafts, complete with references, TOC, etc.)

**Thesis “Proposal”**

» Based on Section 9 in de Neufville’s document (p. 51) (Chapter 12 in latest revision)
  - Thesis Formulation:
    - Write a two page description and justification of the formulation of your thesis in five parts:
      - Its central question or issue,
      - The one or two key methods you will use to test or elaborate this hypothesis,
      - The evidence or data available to support your answer,
      - The feasibility of your approach within the time and capacities at your disposal, and
      - The logic by which you will establish the point of your thesis.
  - Needs a cover page signed by your thesis supervisor and reader if appropriate

**Thesis Guidelines**

» de Neufville thesis manual

» General MIT Guidelines

**Thesis Guidelines**

» de Neufville thesis manual

» General MIT Guidelines
### From the TPP WWW Site

- Also will be posted on R de Neufville’s server
- Some minor edits probably coming, too

### New Chapter in Manual: “Policies”

- Not just thesis policies
- General TPP academic policies
- But one aspect that has become an ESD topic that we have to address:
  - Rank of thesis supervisors

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### Supervision Guidelines

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<th>May Supervise</th>
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TPP Thesis Proposals Site
http://stellar.mit.edu/s/project/tpp-thesis/

Thesis Timetables
» February Graduates
  – You better have gotten started!
» June Graduates
  – You too!
» Planning, planning, planning
  – Remember that your supervisor is NOT obliged to drop everything to meet your schedule!
  – Edit/revisions are the NORM, not the exception
  – Special Note: Clear your title page and abstract with Sydney AS SOON AS FEASIBLE!
» Best Thesis award

Dual Degrees
» Admission to the “other” department program
  – Must be admitted no later than the end of the penultimate semester
  – Note: Other departments may have other/earlier deadlines
» Petition for completion
  – 66 graduate units [G] per degree, 42 H-Level per degree
  – Sharing of courses across degrees?
  – Sharing of thesis across degrees?
» Research supervisor in the loop?
» Timing implications

Applications to ESD PhD
» See http://esd.mit.edu/academics/phd_admissions.html
» Due January 10th [for the moment]
» Elizabeth Milnes (emilnes@mit.edu; E40-249)
» “How do I apply if I am already a student at MIT?”
  – “[L] MIT master’s students seeking a doctoral degree should apply using the procedure outlined above.
    [I.e.: no formal distinction between internal and external applications]”
  – “Current students only are eligible for an application fee waiver, which they can request from ESD’s Academic Office [...]”
  – “Additionally, current graduate students do not have to submit GRE scores, but [...] standardized test scores submitted to MIT in the past will automatically be uploaded into our system, and be available to the Admissions Committee.”
  – “[...] The Admissions Committee expects successful applicants to the doctoral program will have an MIT GPA of 4.7 or higher.”