University of Essex

School of Health and Social Care: Standard Milestones for Masters by Dissertation Students

Milestones	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Agreement on research topic and assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	▪ A brief description of the general research topic. ▪ Training Needs Analysis to be completed.	▪ 2nd week ▪ 2nd week
M2: Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research	Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): ▪ Write central research problem/questions to be answered. ▪ Methodological considerations. ▪ Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations ▪ Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.	▪ By first Supervisory Board (Term 1)
M3: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete a Masters by Dissertation.	▪ Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills. ▪ Write critical literature review	▪ By end of Term 2
M4: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected to be in a position to complete within one year	▪ Create a detailed, realistic plan of work leading to submission ▪ Produce 2 draft chapters/ papers ▪ Report on research undertaken to date ▪ Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant) ▪ Produce supervisory board report written in an appropriate subject specific style	▪ By Supervisory Board (Term 3)
M5: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.	▪ Create a detailed, realistic completion plan (if required)	▪ By Supervisory Board (Term 3)

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Completion Year **(if needed)** M7: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	▪ Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s) comments	▪ By Supervisory Board prior to submission