

Master's Project expectations

The purpose of a Master's Project is to develop deeper knowledge, understanding, and capabilities in the context of the program of study and to demonstrate the ability to conduct independent work in research or advanced development.

The Master's Project is conducted on a topic related to the student's program of study; its description is developed by the student, the supervising professor, and, in case the project is conducted in industry, the job supervisor.

The Master's Project must involve more than just learning: it must include a well defined component that tackles a new problem, one for which no accepted solution currently exists, but for which the student attempt to develop (and assess) a solution as part of the project. In the case of a project conducted within a company, this component must be applicable beyond the confines of the company -- it must add to the knowledge base of the technical community. Whether or not a component meets the requirements of the section is determined by the supervising professor, with final authority resting with the section director and associate dean.

The Master's Thesis is a description of the important parts of the Master's project: its initial goals, its major steps, and its final results, including a discussion of lessons learned, alternatives identified in hindsight, and possible future steps. In the case of a project conducted in industry, it is understood that only part of the work conducted in the company can be viewed as research and development, so the Master's Thesis need not cover all of the work done for the company. Instead, the thesis focuses on the parts of that work that demonstrate the work done in formulating the main problem, addressing it, developing solutions for it, and assessing these solutions.