

Media and Information

Master's Committee Members Guide

2025-2026

Assembling the right committee is crucial to your success and completing your degree. Our department has an amazing wealth of expertise in many different areas.

Many of our faculty have industry experience, while others have experience in research. In our department, most of our students will end up working in various industries. So having faculty with industry expertise will be important to them.

As a global leader in research, MSU has requirements that each master's committee must have at least one tenure track or tenured faculty on their committee. All these faculty members have extensive research experience. Thus, it is a requirement that MA students have at least one tenure track faculty on their committee.

A committee may have additional members, for example a domain expert from another MSU department, or a non-regular MSU faculty member. For thesis committees at least two members must be "regular" or tenured, tenure-track faculty. Please consult with the master's program director for guidance in setting up specialized committees.

Plan A (Thesis) students: 3 committee members
Plan B (Project/Poster) students: 2 committee members

Tenured/ Tenure Track (Regular) Faculty

All students must have at least one of the following on your committee.

[Young Anna Argyris](#)

[Johannes Bauer](#)

[Celeste' Campos-Castillo](#)

[Amanda Cote](#)

[David Ewoldsen](#)

[Keith Hampton](#)

[Jean Hardy](#)

[Hee Rin Lee](#)

[Casey O'Donnell](#)

[Wei Peng](#)

[Robby Ratan](#)

[Mike Stern](#)

[Morgan Vigil-Hayes](#)

[Brian Winn](#)

[Susan Wyche](#)

Non-Tenure Track (Fixed Term) Faculty

Students may have one of any of the following on your committee

[Susan Bonner](#)

[Sandra Braman](#)

[Thomas Day](#)

[Andrew Dennis](#)

[Cory Heald](#)

[Nick Kwiatkowski](#)

[Jeff Siarto](#)

[Ruth Shillair](#)

[Ryan Thompson](#)

[Valeta Wensloff](#)

Frequently Asked Questions-

Who do I select as a committee member?

If you have a faculty member work extensively with you on a class project, they are often a good choice to be on your committee. You can check background bios of faculty members to look for their area of research and what you want to do in your project. Have a clear idea of what you want to do for your graduation project.

How do I request a committee member?

Start with the person you would like to be acting chair of your committee. Ask if they would be able to serve on your committee. Discuss with them your ideas for other committee members. Listen carefully, they know details you might not know and what guidance you will need to succeed. With approval of your primary committee member, then ask any additional members.

If I request a committee member, will they automatically be able to help me?

No. Due to other responsibilities they might not be able to help you. Be respectful of their time and if it doesn't work, they may have suggestions on who else could be on your committee. Feel free to talk with the MA program director or the APC for recommendations.

What if I ask someone and I don't hear back?

If you don't hear back in a few business days, then we recommend you try again. Make sure your email is clear and concise. Tell them what part of the project you would appreciate their guidance and give them an approximate timeline (e.g., what semester are you starting the project, when do you plan to finish).

Can I have more than two people on a Plan B committee?

Yes, you can have additional committee members. This is helpful if you have a complex project or if you need guidance from two non-tenure track faculty.