



## DISSERTATION MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION PROCEDURES MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

- 1. Complete and submit required forms at least two weeks prior to your defense.** Complete the [Information Cover Sheet](#), [Certification of Final Form \(CFF\)](#) (student and committee chair signatures required), and the [ETD Release Form](#) (student signature required) located on the [Graduate Studies forms page](#) in the Manuscript Forms and Procedures section. Email these forms or submit in person to the Graduate Studies Manuscript Coordinator, Mayra Estrada ([mayra85@unm.edu](mailto:mayra85@unm.edu)).
- 2. Defend your dissertation.** The defense is scheduled once the student and their major advisor have agreed that the manuscript is in its final form. **MFA graduate students must submit their dissertation to the [UNM Digital Repository](#) within ninety days of passing their final examination defense for the dissertation or by the graduation deadline (whichever comes first).** If a petition has not been approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies for extension to the ninety-day policy or the manuscript is not submitted within that time, the student may be required to schedule and complete a second final examination for defense the dissertation. In all cases the results of the defense must be submitted to Graduate Studies no later than two weeks after the announced date of the defense.
  - University regulations require that MFA students must be enrolled in 699 dissertation hours and complete a minimum of one hour of graduate credit in the term they complete degree requirements.
  - The student who misses the terms degree requirement graduation deadline (**July 15 for Summer, November 15 for Fall, April 15 for Spring**) but completes degree requirements by the last day of that term may choose to follow the [Courtesy Policy](#). Should the student miss the graduation deadline (**July 15 for Summer graduation, November 15 for Fall graduation, April 15 for Spring graduation**), but complete all degree requirements on or before the last day of that term, the student is not required to register for the next (graduation) term, except for any obligations to meet full time enrollment. The degree program must submit the student's name on the proposed graduation list for actual term of graduation.
- 3. Properly format your dissertation.** Visit the [Overview of Thesis & Dissertation Policies and Procedures webpage](#) for formatting information and preparation (including online tutorials and information about formatting workshops), manuscript templates, and Digital Repository information. You are also welcome (but not required) to email the Graduate Studies Manuscript Coordinator, Mayra Estrada

([mayra85@unm.edu](mailto:mayra85@unm.edu)), with your dissertation for review before you officially submit it to the transitional repository. Be sure that the dissertation PDF is your final draft before you submit to the [UNM Digital Repository](#).

4. **Decide whether or not to embargo your work.** Dissertations are submitted in a PDF format to the [UNM Digital Repository](#). The university encourages open access to all electronic dissertation (ETDs) that are produced in the course of graduate work at UNM. To facilitate this, ETDs are made available on a server housed in a UNM repository and are available for search and download through search engines such as Google.

In some cases it is not appropriate for the dissertation to be immediately accessible as an open access file at the [UNM Digital Repository](#). Thus, UNM has implemented an [Embargo Restriction \(restriction on availability\) policy](#) for the dissertation. The embargo will allow you to restrict public-wide access to the [UNM Digital Repository](#) until the embargo expires after two years. While embargoed, the manuscript must be available within the University of New Mexico academic community for satisfying the program degree requirement. Therefore, if you elect to embargo your work, you must submit the [Request for Embargo Restriction form](#) to the Graduate Studies office with signatures/and a Memo of Explanation. You will also need to pay a \$40.00 embargo restriction fee to UNM Cashiers at the UNM Business Center. The new IP-address model only allows persons who use UNM computers with IP-address designations to view the dissertation. Otherwise, the public will not be able to view the manuscript. Please discuss this policy with your committee chair to determine if this procedure is necessary. You will still need to submit your dissertation to the [UNM Digital Repository](#) if you choose to embargo.

5. **Submit your dissertation to the [UNM Digital Repository](#) within 90 days of passing your defense or by the appropriate deadline (see Number 2 above).**

1. Create your account login at the [UNM Digital Repository](#). Go to [digitalrepository.unm.edu](http://digitalrepository.unm.edu). Click on My Account, then click Sign Up in the Create New Account section. Complete the registration.
2. When your final dissertation file is ready as a PDF, click Submit Research in the Author Corner section (right side).
3. Select your discipline/academic program.
4. Agree to the Submission Agreement.
5. Complete all applicable fields. Click on the Submit tab when you have completed the dissertation submission.
6. You and the Graduate Studies Manuscript Coordinator will get a notification by email when you have completed the dissertation submission. The Manuscript Coordinator will review the dissertation for final approval.
7. The manuscript will stay in the UNM digital shadow archive until the Registrar confers the final degree, at which time the Graduate Studies Manuscript Coordinator electronically moves the manuscript from the shadow archive to the open-access UNM Digital Repository.