

Recommended Timeline for Qualitative (Interview-based and ethnography) MA Project

Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer
1st Year		
Identify subfield? (migration, race/ethnicity, health, education, etc.)	Identify Research Question *Can be done by writing literature reviews in courses & talking to advisor and committee members	Preliminary data collection (Conduct Interviews and observations)
Begin compiling readings for annotated bibliography (recommend that you start using a reference manager, eg. Zotero)	Identify Research Design *including fieldsite	Write research memos, develop code book
Draft statement of problem (based on the literature, or policy reports, or news sources)	Create Interview Guide & share w/ your advisor for potential feedback	Identify model article for MA thesis
	Submit IRB by end of semester & check in w/ your adviser re: IRB submission	Draft Literature Review
		Draft Data and Methods sections
2nd Year		
Revise Data and Methods section	Continue data analysis	
Finish Conducting Interviews	Draft Findings, Introduction, & Discussion and conclusions.	
Data Analysis *consult advisor on approach & check in as you develop thematic findings	Revise Literature Review given Findings	
Outline findings section	Revise multiple drafts with advisor	
	Defend MA with advisor permission	
	Present MA to Department	