RELIGION IN CULTURE, MA

Description
Taking the Department’s motto seriously — studying religion in culture — this MA degree explores cross-disciplinary social theory and applies it to the study of religion, seeing each site studied as a test case in identity formation. Unlike other graduate programs in the study of religion, the MA in Religion in Culture at The University of Alabama presses beyond mere description and cross-cultural comparison, instead using social theory to understand the effects that narratives, practices, classification systems, and institutional structures have on social groups and their members. The degree program maintains this approach with a combination of analytic tools and digital skills, training students to use innovative technologies so as to communicate their findings effectively to wide audiences.

Two Key Foundations
The premise of the degree is that the work taking place in our field has wide relevance. Critical analysis and innovative communication skills in the public humanities are therefore both cornerstones of this MA. While all students will carry out their own independent research and gain co-writing experience with their supervisor, courses will require them to produce original article-length research papers and to create substantive digital presentations. These emphases begin in the first semester of the program, with two Foundations courses: one in social theory and the other in public humanities. In consultation with their supervisor, their culminating thesis project will emphasize one or the other of these two modes of scholarly communication — allowing students to tailor the thesis to suit their own interests and career plans.

Supervision
Supervisors are assigned by the graduate committee when a student is accepted into the program, making the statement of purpose a crucial element of the application process, inasmuch as it is the primary means by which the graduate committee determines whether there is sufficient overlap of faculty expertise with incoming students’ interests and needs. (This assignment is open to revision, at the discretion of the graduate director, should student interests change.) Faculty supervisors assist students in navigating the degree program, advising courses based on student interests, and mentoring the completion of a culminating thesis project.

Degree Structure
The 36 credit hour graduate degree (2 years of course work, including the final thesis) focuses on providing students with two critical foundations: (i) becoming conversant in contemporary social theory and applying it to their area of interest in the study of religion and (ii) developing competencies in the tools of the public, digital humanities. In their first semester students will be not only reading widely in social theory (and applying it to an historical, regional, or ethnographic example of their choice) but also gaining familiarity with a wide variety of digital tools (from video and audio recording and editing, to making web pages and working with “big data”) that will assist them in sharing their research. Students are also encouraged in their second semester to take a course examining the history of the study of religion in order to think critically about the application and relevance of those foundational elements in the field of religious studies.

Relevance of the Degree
The program is designed not only for students hoping to pursue doctoral work but also for those aiming to use these skills in any number of other professions – places where the analytic skills gained from working in social theory are enhanced by their communication skills and digital expertise. Rigorous coursework and original research with the mentorship of faculty prepares students for prestigious PhD programs; meanwhile, experience applying digital platforms to those research interests equips students with sought-after skills that can be applied to a number of careers.

Non-credit Colloquium
A required, non-credit Graduate Colloquium meets twice each semester and exposes students to a range of professional issues relevant to higher education today. The kinds of topics covered include, but are not limited to: teaching, C.V. preparation, applying for future graduate study, and career opportunities outside academia.

Journal Group
Attended by REL graduate students and faculty, an academic reading group meets twice each semester. Each session is led by a second-year MA student and features discussion of a current peer-reviewed journal article relevant to that student’s research interests.

Funding
There are a limited number of graduate teaching assistantships (GTA) – full or partial – that are awarded annually on a competitive basis. Full GTA positions (i.e., 0.5 FTE) come with a full stipend and full tuition waiver (whether in- or out-of-state); partial GTA positions (e.g., 0.25 FTE) come with a half stipend and half tuition waiver.

Contact
For more information, contact Prof. Merinda Simmons (merinda.simmons@ua.edu), REL’s graduate director.

Admissions
Students seeking an M.A. degree in the study of religion at The University of Alabama must first have earned an undergraduate degree in either the academic study of religion or related field and demonstrate how their areas of interest intersect with the program and REL faculty expertise.

In addition to the minimum Graduate School admission requirements, to be considered for regular admission an application must include:

• CV
• Statement of Purpose including the planned program of study
• Writing sample
• Three letters of recommendation.

Note: students who have graduated from UA’s REL program – if overlapping with current faculty – do not need to submit letters of recommendation. Only one letter of recommendation is required of those students who have not majored in REL but who have taken courses with current faculty.

For full consideration of possible funding, applications to begin the program in the fall semester must be completed no later than December 1. Applications to begin in the spring semester are possible as well and must be submitted no later than October 15.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.
Curricular Requirements

It is expected that, in their first Fall semester, all graduate students will enroll in both REL 501 and REL 502 along with an additional graduate seminar. The aim of this first semester is to acquire skills (social theory + public humanities skills) while also beginning to explore, in those courses, the specific historical, regional, or ethnographic e.g. on which each student will focus during their culminating research project.

In all subsequent semesters (i.e., Fall and Spring), students will normally enroll in three courses (for 9 credit hours), so as to complete the degree in 2 academic years.

With permission of their supervisor and in consultation with the Graduate Director, some of these hours may be taken outside the Department, so that students can benefit from campus-wide resources (e.g., language training necessary for carrying out their research).

In their final Spring semester, students pursuing the formal thesis option will usually enroll in 6 hours of Thesis and 3 hours of the Capstone Seminar (a collaborative course dedicated to supporting their research by inviting feedback from a faculty member other than their supervisor as well as from all other students in their cohort). Students pursuing the non-thesis option will take the 3-hour Capstone Seminar, as well as six hours of electives relevant to their research.

Thesis Option

Required Courses
1. Six hours of Foundation courses will be taken in the Fall semester of the 1st year:
   - REL 501 Social Theory Foundations 3
   - REL 502 Public Humanities Foundations 3
2. Nine hours of required courses will be taken in the Spring of the second year:
   - REL 590 Capstone Seminar 3
   - REL 599 Thesis Hours 6

Elective Courses 1
- REL 503 Methods Digital Study of Rel
- REL 504 Special Topics
- REL 511 History of Religious Studies
- REL 512 Debates in Method and Theory
- REL 521 Self & Society
- REL 522 Power & Persuasion
- REL 523 Discourse & Practice
- REL 524 Past & Present
- REL 525 Identity & Place
- REL 560 Independent Study
- REL 561 Independent Study
- REL 565 Religion in Culture Applied
- REL 580 Academic Writing in REL

Total Hours 36

Non-Thesis Option

Required Courses
1. Six hours of Foundation courses will be taken in the Fall semester of the 1st year:
   - REL 501 Social Theory Foundations 3
   - REL 502 Public Humanities Foundations 3

Elective Courses 1
- REL 503 Methods Digital Study of Rel
- REL 504 Special Topics
- REL 511 History of Religious Studies
- REL 560 Independent Study
- REL 565 Religion in Culture Applied
- REL 580 Academic Writing in REL

Total Hours 36

Footnotes
1 In consultation with your supervisor, students will complete an additional twenty-one hours of graduate course work, including independent study courses and seminars in REL, plus graduate courses from other departments (in consultation with your supervisor and the Grad Director). For e.g., depending on the student’s program of study, courses in foreign languages, taught through Modern Languages and Classics, and may be recommended. In addition, a required, non-credit Graduate Colloquium, led by the Graduate Director, meets monthly, to discuss a variety of professional issues in the study of religion in particular, or higher ed in general. REL faculty are invited as well.

Transfer Credit

Graduate-level credit earned at an accredited institution where a student was enrolled in the graduate school may be submitted for review for inclusion in the REL degree program.

Evaluation of credit for transfer will not be made until the student has enrolled in the graduate school of the University of Alabama. Courses that received a grade of less than a “B” will not be accepted for transfer of credit.

A student initiates at the Office of the Graduate School the request for transfer of graduate credit obtained at another institution. The student must also ensure that the Office of the Graduate School has an official transcript of the credit involved.

With the approval of the student’s advisory committee and the Dean of the Graduate School, up to 12 hours of coursework for a graduate degree may be transferred from another institution. All credit toward the master’s degree must have been earned during the six years immediately preceding the date on which the degree is awarded. Details about the Graduate School’s policy on Transfer Credit is available in the Degree Requirements section of the Graduate Catalog.

Capstone Seminar Requirement

All students in the Spring semester of their final year will enroll in REL 590 Capstone Seminar as their culminating experience in the M.A. Religion in
Internships

Students are not required to complete an internship. Any student who wishes to learn through an internship should discuss options for enrolling in REL 565 Religion in Culture Applied with their supervisor and the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director will set up each internship in consultation with the advisor and interested student.

Plan I – Thesis Process Requirements

In consultation with the Grad Director and supervisor (if applicable), a student can opt to complete a defended thesis as the culminating project (defined as a piece of original research that is potentially publishable as an academic article).

If pursuing the formal/official thesis option, certain deadlines must be met. By the end of the first semester, a student should know what kind of thesis they will pursue (see two options below), as well as its broad research topic.

All MA students who choose Plan I will complete 6 thesis hours in their second/culminating year of study. These hours will be completed under the supervision of a faculty advisor and will require a public defense at its completion.

If choosing Plan I, a student will have a choice between two thesis options: a traditional written thesis or a digital project. In both cases, you will form a committee to direct the development of the project and formally defend both the proposal and the work upon completion. The faculty advisor will oversee the process and offer feedback and guidance along the way.

- Traditional Thesis: This will culminate in an article-length (25-35 pages) project of original, substantive research that can be submitted for peer review publication.
- Digital Project: This will culminate in a substantive, research-based digital project that relies upon social theory and digital skills gained across the degree program.

Plan II – Non-Thesis Process Requirements

In consultation with the Grad Director and supervisor, a student can opt to pursue either of the following non-thesis options. 1) the comprehensive exam route, which can entail a set of exams in the last semester or, 2) participation in the already required REL 590 Capstone Seminar – this later route is recommended, as it can still result in an original seminar paper that you present to faculty and students. If choosing the comprehensive exam route, the student should declare that choice by the end of the second semester. Failure to declare by the end of the second semester will default to the culminating experience in the Capstone Graduate Seminar.

Time Limit for Degree Completion Requirements

The Department of Religious Studies normally expects completion of the degree program within two years. However, for multiple reasons, students may take longer to complete their degree. For more details on the general policies of the Graduate School, consult the Degree Requirements section of the Graduate Catalog.

Academic Misconduct Information

The Department of Religious Studies expects its graduate students to interact with each other, their professors and the REL staff, and undergraduate students in a professional and courteous manner. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, each of the following acts when performed in any type of academic or academically-related matter, exercise, or activity: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication of information, misrepresentation, and abetting any of the above. For more information on academic misconduct, consult the Misconduct section of the Graduate Catalog.

Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence Information

Any student considering a leave of absence or withdrawing from the program is encouraged to consult their supervisor and the Graduate Director. For more information about processes in the Graduate School, consult the Withdrawals and Leaves of Absence section of the Graduate Catalog.

Academic Grievances Information

Students with a concern about a course or a grade (or similar dispute) should consult the appropriate faculty in the following ascending order. First, the instructor of the course, then the student’s supervisor, then the Graduate Director, and finally the Department Chair. Details about the academic grievance process in the Graduate School are available in the Grievance Information section of the Graduate Catalog.

Scholastic Requirements

Scholastic requirements to maintain academic standing are available in the Scholastic Requirements section of the Graduate Catalog.

Graduate School Deadlines Information

Student deadlines as set by the Graduate School are available in the Student Deadlines section of the Graduate Catalog.

Application for Graduation Information

Each candidate for a master’s degree must apply for graduation (through myBama) no later than the registration period for the semester or the first session of the summer term in which requirements for the degree are to be completed. Consult details in the Degree Requirements section of the Graduate Catalog.

Master’s Degrees

The primary purpose of master’s degree programs is to provide students with subject matter at an advanced level in their fields of study. Master’s degrees are designed to assist students either to continue their graduate studies or to meet the goals of their professions. In most cases, master’s programs also help students become familiar with methods of independent investigation.

Program Requirements

Two plans are offered for the master’s degree:

Plan I. Candidates for the master’s degree under Plan I must earn a minimum of 24 semester hours of credit in coursework plus earn a minimum of 6 additional hours of thesis research hours, for a total of 30 hours.
Plan II. Candidates for the master’s degree under Plan II must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours of coursework credit and pass the comprehensive examination or complete a culminating or “capstone experience” as described under the Comprehensive Examinations section below.

Both plans require a minimum of 18 semester hours in the major subject. With the approval of the major department, the remainder of the coursework may be completed in either the major or a related field.

In some divisions and in many departments of the University, candidates are required to do their work under Plan I. Candidates working under Plan II may be required to participate successfully in seminar or problem courses that will give them an acquaintance with the methods of research and an appreciation of the place and function of original investigation in the field.

Residency Requirements
A student's program at the master's level must provide sufficient association with the resident faculty to permit individual evaluation of the student's capabilities and achievements.

Graduate Credit
A student must be admitted to the Graduate School and must register as a graduate student in order to receive graduate credit. Approval for graduate registration must be obtained from program advisors prior to registration.

Graduate Credit for Noncredit Experiences
All course credit used toward a UA graduate degree must be taught at the graduate level. No graduate credit may be earned for experiential learning not conducted under the direct supervision of graduate faculty of The University of Alabama. UA does not offer graduate credit for noncredit workshops, seminars, continuing education experiences, professional development, internships, work/life experience, and so forth.

Transfer of Credit
Courses of full graduate-level credit earned in a regionally accredited institution where a student was enrolled in the graduate school, may be submitted for review for inclusion in a master's degree program. Evaluation of credit for transfer will not be made until after the student has enrolled in the Graduate School of The University of Alabama. Acceptance of credit requires the approval of the student's advisory committee and the dean of the Graduate School.

A student initiates the Request for Transfer of Graduate Credit form and must ensure that the Graduate School receives an official transcript from the outside institution. This should be done well in advance of the final semester, otherwise it may delay graduation and awarding of the degree.

With the approval of the student's department and the dean of the Graduate School, the greater of 12 hours or 25 percent of the required coursework for a master's degree may be transferred from an outside institution. Some master's degree programs allow fewer hours to be transferred. Be sure to check with your department's graduate program director regarding your department's transfer policy. Eligible coursework will have been earned during the six-year period (18 fall, spring and summer semesters) preceding the semester of admission to the UA master's program. Only courses in which a student earned a "B" grade or better may be transferred. Thesis Research (599) may not be transferred in from an outside institution. If approved, such coursework can be counted toward the minimum hours and coursework requirements for the master’s degree.

In some cases, foreign educational credentials may not meet the Graduate School's criteria for transfer of credit. It may be necessary for students in this situation to secure an evaluation of their credentials from World Education Services Inc. (WES), an external foreign credential evaluation service. Additional information on their services can be found at their website.

400-Level Courses
A maximum of 6 semester hours of 400-level course credit may be accepted for graduate credit and used toward a master's degree. The department needs to submit the Approval of 400-Level Course Work for Master's Credit form through the UA DocuSign system in myBama. This form must be submitted for approval to the Graduate School by the last day to add a course for the semester in which the course will be taken.

Time Limit
All requirements for the master's degree must be completed during the six years (18 fall, spring, and summer semesters) immediately preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded. Previously approved transferred coursework that falls within six years of admission to the master's degree program can be counted toward the minimum hours requirement. There is no provision for an extension of the time limit beyond six years for master's students.

Revalidation of Expired Credits
There may be particular and limited instances where a student is re-admitted to a graduate program, and revalidation of expired credits is justified. In such cases, where the department and Graduate School feel it is appropriate to do so, the student may work with the graduate program director to petition for such revalidation, on a course-by-course basis. For each course for which revalidation is requested, the student must demonstrate, to the department’s satisfaction, that the knowledge and skills gained in that course are still current. Currency will be evaluated by a committee of faculty, composed of at least three graduate faculty members within the degree program to which the student is requesting re-admission, and two from a separate department.

The committee will then issue a recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School, who will rule on the petition.

Some methods for demonstrating currency may include but are not limited to 1) a professional portfolio; 2) an exam or essay linked to each course and demonstrating up-to-date knowledge; 3) a re-take of the comprehensive exams under current program guidelines, and/or 4) other methods deemed appropriate by the committee.

Students may request revalidation of up to 50% of the required minimum coursework for their degree. Credits earned from an institution other than the University of Alabama may not be revalidated.

Consideration of revalidation, and a plan of study based on the demonstration-of-currency and other remaining requirements, must be completed as part of the student's re-admission to the Graduate School. Revalidation of credits is not guaranteed. From the time of re-admission, students must complete the degree within the standard time limit, as specified in the Graduate Catalog at the time of the student's re-admission.

Thesis
A thesis evidencing research capacity, independent thought, and the ability to interpret materials is required of all master's degree candidates who pursue Plan I. The subject chosen must be in the major field and must be approved by the graduate committee of the major department or school and by the head of the student's major department or division.
A thesis committee must consist of at least three members appointed by the dean of the Graduate School. Students set up their committee through the Graduate Academic Activities portal on the Graduate School website. The request normally is made as soon as the successful defense of the thesis proposal has been completed. All members of a thesis committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty. The Committee Chair must be a full or associate member of the Graduate Faculty. One member must be from outside the student’s major department. The majority of the thesis committee must be full-time regular University of Alabama faculty. If the outside member is not a full or associate member of the UA Graduate Faculty (e.g., a highly qualified person from another university, a business, or industry), the graduate dean needs to appoint that member by approving Affiliate Graduate Faculty status for the specific purpose of serving on the student’s thesis committee. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances meriting approval by the graduate dean before the final oral defense of the thesis, all members of the thesis committee must attend the defense.

The candidate must give members of the examining committee a minimum of two weeks to read the thesis before the date of the final oral examination. All members must agree that the student is ready for the final oral thesis defense. A final oral thesis defense is required of all students completing a thesis. All members of the thesis committee must be members of the UA graduate faculty and must attend the final oral thesis defense unless there are extraordinary circumstances warranting the graduate dean’s approval of the absence prior to the defense meeting.

The final oral thesis defense is the culminating experience in the master’s program. As such, all members of the thesis committee are expected to attend and participate in real time. Virtual attendance via interactive video or teleconference is permitted for off-campus external committee members, but the student and Tuscaloosa campus faculty should attend in person unless extraordinary circumstances dictate the need for virtual attendance. In circumstances where virtual participation is necessary, all participants must follow the Virtual Participation guidelines found below.

**Virtual Participation in Committee-Based Exams/Defenses**

All members of a student’s graduate committee are expected to attend and participate, usually in person, in any oral examination as part of the student’s graduate (Master’s or Doctoral) degree program. Traditionally, oral examinations are conducted with the student meeting their committee while gathered in one physical location on campus. However, the need occasionally arises for virtual participation in the oral examination.

If a department or program chooses to allow virtual participation in oral examinations, they must ensure adherence to the following technical requirements. Departments or programs may enforce stricter guidelines than those outlined, including an on-campus-only policy if deemed necessary and appropriate.

**Technical Requirements**

In cases where departments or programs allow any level of virtual participation, from one virtual member to a fully virtual event, they must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Prior to any oral exam, the student and Committee Chair coordinate with other committee members regarding the protocol for the exam.
2. All participants must join using university-adopted videoconferencing tools that allow for **fully interactive** audio and video communications along with screen-sharing capabilities, which must be maintained throughout the examination and any related discussion.
3. The use of audio-only communications is not permitted.
4. Participation merely by viewing a recording of the oral examination is specifically prohibited.
5. All members of the committee, on- or off-site, must participate in the final evaluation of the examination or defense; provisions must be made to record their votes and collect their signatures as necessary using the digital signature system approved by the Graduate School.
6. The Committee Chair, or another non-student designee, shall be the host of the virtual meeting. A co-host may be assigned so that the event will not be interrupted by technical difficulties. The host should mute all participants (or ask participants to mute themselves) and ask the student to share their screen, if a presentation is involved, in order to make the presentation visible to all attendees. The host must also ensure that appropriate security precautions are taken to prevent the interruption of the event.
7. Following the public portion of the defense, the host shall ask all non-committee members to leave the meeting, or the host may manually remove them. In programs where the defense has both a public and a private portion, the committee may then continue the event as outlined in their program protocols.
8. Once the committee has completed the examination of the student, the host shall place the student into the waiting room (or have the committee members use a breakout room) so the committee can conduct their deliberations in private.

The committee chair must have a secondary videoconferencing system available as a back-up in the case of technical difficulties. Cancellation of the examination should only occur in the case where both the primary and secondary back-up systems fail. If an examination must be rescheduled, it will be done without prejudice to the student. Since committee deliberations are an essential aspect of the examination, completing the examination and final discussion via email or other non-audiovisual means is not an option. If the student or any committee member(s) have a disability that will be impacted by virtual participation, accommodations for participation must be provided.

**Article Style vs. Journal Format for Master’s Theses**

**Article Style.**

At the doctoral level, “article-style dissertations” are unified works that include several distinct but related studies of research or creative activity, each of which is of publishable quality. The University does not permit an “article-style thesis” to be presented for a master’s degree.

**Journal Format.**

A “journal-format thesis” is acceptable. Such a thesis follows the format of a particular journal in which the student and advisor want the thesis to be published. To prepare a journal-format thesis, the student uses the journal’s “information for authors” or similarly titled guidelines in conjunction with the Graduate School’s Student Guide to Preparing Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

All theses are submitted electronically rather than on paper. See the Graduate School’s homepage for a link to information on Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETD) for details.

Theses must comply with the regulations set out in A Student Guide to Preparing Electronic Theses and Dissertations, available on the Graduate School’s website. Approval of the thesis by the graduate dean is necessary before graduation.

The thesis should be completed, if possible, while the student is in residence at the University. To request permission to complete a thesis in absentia, the student must, before leaving the University, submit a
satisfactory outline of the thesis, as well as evidence that adequate facilities are available where the work will be done, to the head of the student's major department.

**Protection of Human Subjects for Research**

Scientific research involving human subjects has produced substantial benefits for society, but it also can pose troubling ethical questions. The mission of the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Protection of Human Subjects is to ensure that research involving human subjects is conducted ethically. University and federal policies require that review and approval to use human subjects in research precede the research.

In the case of thesis research that involves the use of human subjects in any way, the principal investigator is responsible for contacting the college Human Research Review Committee to obtain approval for the planned research.

**Final Thesis Defense**

The final oral thesis defense is the culminating experience in the master's program. As such, all members of the thesis committee are expected to attend and participate in real time. Virtual attendance via interactive video or teleconference is permitted for off-campus external committee members, but Tuscaloosa campus faculty should attend in person unless extraordinary circumstances dictate the need for virtual attendance. The thesis must comply with the regulations in A Student Guide to Preparing Electronic Theses and Dissertations.

"Completed" means submitted to ProQuest after being successfully defended, carefully edited following the defense meeting, and having the Committee Acceptance Form (CAF) signed by all committee members, department chairperson, and graduate dean. A majority of the thesis committee must approve the written thesis and defense before submission to the Graduate School. Following the thesis defense, the Committee Acceptance Form is submitted by the thesis chair through the UA DocuSign system in myBama.

Graduate School deadlines, including each semester's thesis deadline, are available at the Graduate School's homepage. Consult the ETD website for details of ETD submission, including information on what needs to be submitted to the Graduate School. The graduate dean must approve the thesis before the student can be cleared for graduation.

**Comprehensive Examinations**

In addition to the regular course examinations, a final comprehensive examination representing a "culminating" or "capstone" experience for a degree is required of all candidates for the master's degree (except for those candidates pursuing the Master of Accountancy, the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Library and Information Studies, the Master of Social Work, and the Master of Tax Accounting). The comprehensive examination is a culminating experience in which the student is expected to integrate prior learning. Each department, with approval of the Graduate Council, determines the most appropriate format. The various exams may consist of one or more of the following:

- a written and/or oral examination based on the content of the degree program;
- a thesis and final oral defense;
- a course requiring interpretation and integration of information from previous courses;
- a research paper, a "policy and practice" paper, or equivalent experience;
- a public performance or exhibition along with a contextualizing paper; and/or
- a practicum or internship.

If the comprehensive exam requirement is met with option 1 and/or 2 above, then the examining committee for comprehensive examinations must consist of at least three members of the graduate faculty from that department and appointed by the dean of the Graduate School. The examination must be given at least six weeks before the date of graduation (two weeks before for Plan II) and reported promptly to the dean of the Graduate School on appropriate forms. The final report is submitted by the department through the UA DocuSign system in myBama. The form should be submitted when all examinations are completed. A student may take the final oral or written examination only twice. Failing the examination twice results in dismissal from the degree program and the Graduate School.

**Application for Graduation**

Each candidate for a master's degree must submit an Application for Degree via myBama no later than the last day to add a course for the semester (or first term of the summer semester) in which requirements for the degree are to be completed. That specific date is published each semester at the Graduate School's website under Current Students/Deadlines for Graduate Students.

**Second Master's Degree**

Six (6) semester hours of eligible credit from one master's degree at The University of Alabama may be applied to the requirements for a second master's degree, but only if the department of the second master's agrees to the courses in the plan of study. Any hours from the previous master's degree must have been earned during the six years (18 fall, spring, and summer semesters) immediately preceding the date on which the second degree is to be awarded. ***Please note that if a student double counts six hours between two master's degrees, no hours may double count toward any additional master's degrees.