MFA Project Defense Guidelines

Your MFA project is a book-length work (a novel, a collection of short stories, or a collection of poems) of a quality that compares favorably with work being published by university presses, commercial trade publishers, or independent literary presses.

Fall of your second year, fill out a MPOS (Master's Program of Study Form) https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/documents/mpos.pdf and turn it in to the **Graduate Program Coordinator**.

You should contact a member of the MFA faculty to discuss directing your project before enrolling in ENGL 798 (MFA Project Hours) for the first time.

Your project director will supervise your ENGL 798 hours and your project will be read by two other faculty members: one from the MFA program and one non-MFA faculty member from the English Department. Additionally, you are encouraged to consider adding to your committee an optional fourth reader from outside of the English Department. You must orally defend your project before your committee. You should contact potential readers during the Fall semester of your third year.

The MFA project defense deadline is April 8th.

Early in the Spring semester of your third year, contact your committee to schedule a defense time. Defenses are generally one-hour long, but it's best to look for a ninety-minute window.

As soon as you schedule a time with your committee, reserve a space for your defense. Contact **Fay Smith** to reserve the chair's conference room or the **Graduate Program Coordinator** to reserve the graduate conference room.
Your project manuscript should be sent by email to your committee and to the **Graduate Program Coordinator** at least two weeks prior to your defense date.

Formatting guidelines: Your manuscript should be formatted as you would format it to send to a publisher, editor or book contest. Use a 12-point, readable font. Include page numbers. Fiction manuscripts should be double spaced. Poetry manuscripts should use whichever spacing you choose. Include a title page with your name, your manuscript title, the names of your committee members, the defense date, and the phrase "University of South Carolina MFA Project."

Fill out and bring the G-TSF form for your committee's signatures.
https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/documents/g-tsf.pdf Turn the signed G-TSF form into the **Graduate Program Coordinator** following your defense.

An electronic copy of your MFA project manuscript will remain with the English Department. MFA project manuscripts are not submitted to outside databases, and you do not need to embargo them.