

**LOYOLA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**  
**Ateneo de Manila University**

**Partial Thesis Work (Or Its Equivalent) Approval Form**

**Master of Arts in Theological Studies**

|             |              |                          |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| FAMILY NAME | FIRST NAME   | M.I.                     |
| Semester :  | School Year: | STB or MA Theology Year: |

- 1. The student proposes the thesis work below to the Professor or Thesis Adviser and secures his/her approval.**

My proposed thesis (or its equivalent) work for the current semester is (kindly check):

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A major research paper (15 to 30 pages) on the topic, _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The following chapter of a research thesis (indicate proposed title of the chapter)<br>_____                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The following section/chapter of a pastoral ministry project on (indicate proposed title of the section)<br>_____ |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Noted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Professor/Adviser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- 2. Upon completion of the proposed thesis work, the student secures the approval of the Professor or Thesis Adviser.**

Certified as completed in partial completion of the M.A. thesis requirement or its equivalent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Professor/Adviser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Guidelines From the LST Student Handbook:**

**077. MA-TS Research Thesis:** The MA-TS program requires a research thesis or its equivalent. The student must enroll for Thesis Direction every semester, for as long as he/she is engaged in thesis writing, until the semester the thesis will be defended.

**Full Research Thesis:** Under the guidance of a mentor appointed by the Dean, the student writes a thesis proposal. The proposal, which can serve as the first chapter of the thesis, should present and discuss the following: [1] The Problem of the Thesis; [2] Scope and Limitations; [3] The Significance of the Problem; [4] Methodology; [5] Definition of Key Terms; and [6] Basic Bibliography. The proposal (excluding bibliography) should normally not exceed 10 pages and should follow the *LST Style Manual* (based on Turabian, 6<sup>th</sup> edition).

**Four Major Papers:** An alternative to the full research thesis consists of four major papers and two additional 3-unit courses (to replace the 6 units assigned for thesis research). Each of the four papers must conform to the *LST Style Manual* based on Turabian, 6th edition. Recommended length of each paper is 15-30 pages. The four major papers 'thesis' does not need a thesis proposal defense. The professor in whose course a major paper was written can suggest further changes and elaboration of the paper until the paper can be approved by him for inclusion in a four major paper 'thesis.' Under the guidance of an overall mentor chosen from among the professors who mentored the four major papers, the student writes a preface to introduce the four papers and a conclusion to recapitulate the main points of the papers. The overall mentor may still require whatever revisions he/she thinks are necessary before the four major papers can be submitted for public defense.

**Religious Education/Ministry Project:** The second alternative is a religious education or ministry project which, following the basic format of a thesis, concentrates on the effective communication of a particular doctrinal, moral, or pastoral response to a definite contextualized problem. This "project" substitutes for a thesis and is approved for those wishing to develop an applied, inculturated theology which responds more directly to the Philippine and Asian scene. The rules and procedures governing MA thesis proposal, writing, and public defense also apply to the religious education/ministry project.