



**Civil and  
Environmental  
Engineering**

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**MIT Civil and Environmental Engineering**  
**Master of Engineering, *Climate, Environment, and Sustainability***

## **1.THG / Thesis Guidelines**

The MEng thesis is the result of an individual research project conducted by each student in the program in close collaboration with their faculty thesis supervisor. Thesis research begins immediately upon arrival at MIT, and concludes in May with the submission of the signed thesis document. The official MIT deadline for thesis submission is **May 5, 2023**.

### **Research Requirement and 1.THG**

1.THG is a subject associated with a program of research leading to the writing of a graduate thesis. Research plays an integral role in the graduate degree, and research effort is tracked through enrollment in 1.THG. This subject is associated with the laboratory, field, computational, or theoretical research undertaken by each student working with a faculty supervisor in CEE at MIT.

Graduate students are required to register for 1.THG every semester (including IAP), and as part of this, meet with their supervisors on a regular basis. MEng students are required to register for 24 units of 1.THG during the program (we recommend 10 units in fall and spring and 4 units over IAP) and should meet with their supervisors on a weekly basis.

The general process and timeline for conducting and writing the MEng thesis is as follows:

### **September-October 2022**

Thesis topic exploration, preliminary literature review, meetings with supervisor and topic refinement.

### **November-December 2022**

Thesis literature review completed, research question and methodology established, preliminary research results gathered, thesis outline started.

### **January-February 2023**

Research methodology(ies) carried out, including numerical and computational work, physical experiments, etc. Students are expected to be present on campus during IAP conducting research.

### **March 2023**

Final research results and analysis/interpretation completed, writing on all chapters initiated.



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## April-May 2023

Thesis writing, revising, editing, and submission. Final poster presentation.

Students will work closely with their thesis supervisors throughout all steps of the thesis process. As part of the 24 1.THG units completed in the program, students will have milestones, deadlines, and presentations to ensure steady progress and to share thesis research and results with their peers and supervisors.

A detailed schedule for the 2022-2023 academic year is given below.

## Key 1.THG Dates and Assignments, Fall 2022

### Friday, September 16, 2022, 12pm-2pm, 1-131

Thesis key dates overview by APO and introduction to MIT Libraries for MEng Students

### Friday, October 14, 2022

Preliminary literature review due on [Dropbox](#)

*Select and annotate three scholarly publications representative of your interests and possible focus of the MEng thesis. A written paragraph devoted to each publication should summarize the completed research and propose future work that could be done toward the thesis.*

### Friday, October 21, 2022

Thesis proposal signed by supervisor due to APO [cee-apo@mit.edu]

*Prepare a one-page abstract proposing research for the MEng thesis. The abstract should introduce the topic, outline research methodology, and summarize the goals of the work. The thesis supervisor must also sign the cover sheet to indicate their agreement in supervising the proposed topic.*

*Submit signed copy of thesis proposal electronically, using form on [CEE.MIT.EDU/RESOURCES](http://CEE.MIT.EDU/RESOURCES)*

### Friday, November 4, 2022, 2pm-4pm, 48-316

Thesis progress presentations by each student

*Prepare a 6-minute presentation using PowerPoint or similar software to introduce your research topic, review critical existing research in the same area, identify the original research question, outline the proposed methodology, anticipate results, and conclude with the impact of the work. The goal is to share your research plans with each other as well as the wider department community; advisors and research groups will be invited to attend. Feedback on both the content and clarity of the presentation will be provided by CEE advisors and postdocs.*



**Friday, December 9, 2022**

Thesis outline due to supervisor

*Full thesis draft in outline form, including the five standard chapters: 1. Introduction, 2. Literature Review, 3. Methodology, 4. Results, 5. Conclusions. The first three chapters should be more filled out, including text and images, while the later chapters can include placeholders for anticipated content.*

**Key 1.THG Dates and Assignments, Spring 2023**

**Friday, February 10, 2023, 2-4pm, TBD**

Thesis progress presentations by each student

*Prepare a 5-minute presentation using PowerPoint or similar software to give updates on your thesis research, following a similar format to the November presentation (with more focus on methodology and results). Industry representatives will be invited to attend; networking opportunities may follow. Event format (virtual, hybrid, in-person) TBD.*

**Friday, March 17, 2023**

Progress thesis draft due to supervisor

*Expansion on thesis draft outline from December, including substantial updates to Literature Review, Methodology, and Results. Your supervisor will give comments and feedback in person and/or in writing on your draft.*

**Friday, April 14, 2023**

Full thesis draft due to supervisor

*Near-final thesis draft with all chapters written, and results completed, analyzed, and interpreted. This deadline is critical to receive final feedback from your supervisor.*

Poster draft due to supervisor

*Outline of poster content planned for final presentations in mid-May*

**Friday, April 28, 2023**

Final thesis draft due to supervisor

*Finalized thesis that has been copy-edited, formatted according to MIT Guidelines (<https://libraries.mit.edu/distinctive-collections/thesis-specs/>), and thoroughly reviewed by the student for legibility, clarity of arguments, and overall quality. This is the final version to be approved by the supervisor prior to printing and submission.*



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**Friday, May 5, 2023**

Thesis submission deadline

Poster submission deadline

**mid-May 2023, 5-7 pm, location TBD**

Present final poster to CEE community at the end of year award ceremony.