

Department of Agricultural Education & Studies

Creative Component Suggested Format

The Creative Component for a Master's Degree in Agriculture or Masters of Science in Agricultural Education is NOT a thesis. Therefore, the creative component is not submitted to the Thesis Office or the Graduate College for review and approval. Final approval of the creative component is made by the Plan of Study (POS) Committee.

The creative Component is an original project that the master's candidate develops to fill a need in his/her professional career preparation. Examples of creative components include curriculum development projects, instructional materials packets, development of a course of study, public relations program development, sales mentoring program, marketing an educational program, conducting and reporting results of a research project, a special report, annotated bibliography, an integrated field experience or other creative endeavor. (Reference the Graduate Handbook for more information). Please note that graduate students pursuing teacher certification may use their student teaching portfolio as their creative component.

The creative component should be focused on a project that will be useful to the candidate in his/her professional work. It is also important that it has a specific purpose.

With these concepts in mind, it is very important that the creative component has a scholarly format and is presented in a professional document. It is recommended that the following format be used. The format may vary according to the project but this format is a general rule-of-thumb to follow.

Chapter 1 – (Answers the “What” question and sets the stage)

- Introduction
- Purpose & Objectives
- Need
- Definition of Terms

Chapter 2 – (Answers the “Why” question)

- Literature Review

Chapter 3 – (Answers the “How” question. How was it done?)

- Methods & Procedures

Chapter 4 – (Answers the “Results” question. What was developed?)

- Present the “product”
- The product may be an attachment/appendix to report

Chapter 5 – (Answers the “So What” question)

- Reflect on the project
- What is recommended?
- Extensions
- Do anything different?

- Summary

References etc.

The format above is only a suggestion. Major professors in the department may have varying ideas on the format to follow for a creative component, but, a product and a report about it should be the final output of a creative component. It is expected that Masters degree programs have some kind of publication as the result of the effort, e.g. posters, papers, articles.

Work very closely with the graduate faculty member serving as the major professor for your program for guidance on the development of the creative component.