**PROGRESSION THROUGH THE KiND MS PROGRAM**

The student is admitted to the program and begins coursework with plans to maintain a 3.0 GPA. You may want to talk about an initial plan for the first 2 years of coursework if you anticipate taking any classes that aren’t offered regularly. Next, over the course of the next semester or two of your first year, you may want to think about whether you’d like to complete the **comp exam option** or the **thesis option** as part of your degree requirement. Important graduate school reminders are presented here [Thesis, Doctoral Scholarly Project and Dissertation Checklist (unco.edu)](https://www.unco.edu/graduate-school/student-resources/current-students/thesis-capstone-dissertation-checklist.aspx)

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**COMP EXAM OPTION**

Please talk with your graduate mentor about the comp exam options that are available in your area of study. This may mean, depending on your program, taking a certification exam or an in- house written exam or completing a capstone project. If you are planning to take this option, you must **apply for the Comp Exam** in the last semester of your coursework. This form must be submitted to M'lyn (mlyn.miller@unco.edu) and Dr. Stewart (laura.stewart@unco.edu) **prior** to fulling your comp exam requirement. <https://www.unco.edu/nhs/sport-exercise-science/pdf/mscomps.pdf>

**THESIS OPTION**

If you are planning to complete a thesis project, you’ll need to identify a mentor from the KiND faculty and arrange a meeting within your first semester or early in your second semester of the graduate program. You will also need to identify a second committee member from UNC to serve on your committee. This will be something that you’ll want to talk with your mentor about. Completing these tasks, will allow you enough time to develop a thesis project, obtain IRB/IACUC approval if needed, conduct data collection, and write up your thesis. Once your thesis is written and approved by your committee, you’ll want to be sure to schedule a format review meeting with the graduate school prior to the submission deadline for that semester. This is scheduled with Carol Steward (Carol.Steward@unco.edu) and should only be scheduled when your committee has approved your project.

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**All comp exam option and thesis option students will need to apply graduation if they are in their last semester at UNC.** You may apply for graduation in the Spring if you plan to complete your degree requirement during the following summer. You can find this form on the graduate school’s website and on URSA.

**The student must take/pass the comp exam or submit the completed thesis by the graduate school’s deadline for the semester that they are planning to graduate.** Your advisor will submit your results via OnBase once you fulfill your degree requirements. Keep in mind that this deadline is usually at least 1 month prior to the end of the semester, so be sure to plan ahead. [Graduate Graduation Deadlines (unco.edu)](https://www.unco.edu/graduate-school/student-resources/preparing-for-graduation/graduation-deadlines.aspx)