What is RS102?
A 1-semester, 2-credit class which provides opportunity and guidance for the writing of a summative research paper on a topic of your choice which will be evaluated by a faculty member of your choosing.

- Prerequisite: RS101 and 90 hours of the ThM complete.

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What is a thesis?
A 2 or 3 credit independent research paper on an approved topic under the supervision of two faculty advisors which satisfies the integrative research component of the ThM degree.

- Read the Student Handbook section 1.25-26: www.dts.edu/students/studenthandbook.
- Begin the process early - see academic department and readers for specific due dates. See reverse side for suggested thesis timeline.
- Students have 3 contiguous (ex. Fall, Spring, Summer) sessions to complete a thesis. The thesis may be finished during Fall, Spring, or Summer. You may accelerate your plan with the approval of your readers. A thesis does not count toward the 48-hour residency requirement.
- You will automatically be registered for a 1 credit-hour thesis continuation course for up to 1 (2 hour thesis) or 2 (3 hour thesis) additional semesters if you are unable to complete the thesis in the allotted time. Other fees associated with course registration will be charged as well. At the end of this extension period your professor will assign a grade assessing any completed work.
- Thesis Length
  - 2 credit thesis = 12,000 words maximum.
  - 3 credit thesis = 17,000 words maximum.
  - Length does not include bibliography or title page, but does include footnotes.
- Use proper Turabian formatting (see Turabian, latest edition, available in the DTS Book Center and the DTS Turabian Supplement). Before turning in the final approved draft of the thesis the student must submit it to the library for style and format review. Submit two final copies in a thesis box (available in the DTS Book Center) to the Registrar’s Office (2nd floor, Walvoord Student Center).
- Required for entry to the DTS PhD program.

Where do I find?
- Campus Net
- Subject Approval Form
- Thesis Syllabus Sample
- Thesis Grade Sheet
- TREN Agreement
- Thesis Routing Form

Library Website
Library.dts.edu
Thesis Template
DTS Turabian Supplement

ALWAYS STAY IN CONTACT WITH YOUR READERS!
### Thesis Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talk to professors</td>
<td>Topic approval form</td>
<td>Most of reading</td>
<td>First two chapters</td>
<td>Final draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty advising hours</td>
<td>Each department has a different due date for approval form</td>
<td>- Syllabus</td>
<td>First full draft</td>
<td>Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a professor out for coffee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hours paid</td>
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### Other Helpful Information

- **Emphasis** – At around 40-60 hours, you’ll want to declare a ThM emphasis via Campus Net. Please stop by the Advising Center (1st floor, Walvoord Student Center) for more information!

- **Spiritual Formation** – Have you met your SF requirement yet? Please get in touch with the Spiritual Formation department to find out how to meet this requirement for your degree (sf@dts.edu). A portion of SF must be completed prior to beginning the internship.

- **Internship** – At around 60 hours, you’ll want to start thinking about your internship requirements. You can set up an appointment with the Internship Office by emailing internships@dts.edu.

- **Residency** – Every ThM student must complete 48 of their 120 hours at the Dallas or Houston campuses. See the Advising Center or ThM website (www.dts.edu/thmadvising) for more information.

- **Faculty Advisors** – Each week during the Fall and Spring, specific members of the faculty are present in the Advising Center to offer advice and wisdom based upon real life ministry experience. They are here to serve you and pray with you. Stop by the Advising Center for more information.

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**Advising Center**

1st Floor, Walvoord Student Center – 214-887-5080 – advising@dts.edu