

Culminating Project Instructions

OVERVIEW

The culminating project is a requirement of the Master of Arts in Social Justice (MASJ) degree. It is completed during a student's last semester, while they are enrolled in UT 105.

The goal of the MASJ program is to help students see how a broad understanding of various fields of theological study can contribute to a more robust understanding of social issues and a deeper capacity to advance social justice causes. In UT 105-Social Justice Final Colloquium, students will complete a culminating project representing an integrative, applied work. For the culminating project, students will identify one social justice issue of concern within/facing a particular community. Incorporating, integrating, and applying ideas, themes, or concepts from the MASJ coursework, students will then offer a constructive response, develop a helpful approach, or articulate an insightful framing/re-framing of the issue at hand. Although the culminating project may take various forms, it must include at least a 7-10 page written component. Students may also choose to write a longer essay (15-20 pages) for their project.

Each student will work with a faculty member who will serve as the primary supervisor of the culminating project. Students will meet with the faculty supervisor at least twice during the semester to ensure that the project planning is organized and coherent, that any necessary research is thorough and sufficient, and that adequate regular progress is being made. They will also meet with their secondary supervisor (the UT 105 instructor) at least once.

DEADLINES/MILESTONES

Spring/Summer 2026

- Begin thinking about the culminating project and which faculty member might make a good project supervisor. Approach that faculty member to discuss your culminating project idea and ask if they will be your project supervisor.
- (If ready) submit the [Project Overview Form](#)

Fall 2026

- October 2nd the [Project Overview Form](#) is due
- Register for UT 105 for the spring semester.

February 2027

- Complete your project proposal and circulate to your supervisors for review

May 2027

- Project due May 7th by 5pm
- UT 105 meets May 6th for project presentations and celebrations

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The integrative paper should be written in a standard, double-spaced, twelve-point font with one-inch margins. Footnotes should be formatted in ten-point font.

Observe the highest standard with correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and citations. Follow consistent format and typography found in a generally recognized style manual. Footnotes and references should appear at the bottom of the appropriate pages, or at the end of each chapter, or just before the bibliography.

Whichever style/format you choose, follow it consistently. Recommended manuals include Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations and the Chicago Manual of Style.

The **title page** should contain the title of the paper, author's name, date, and degree. Example:

**Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts in Social Justice
at Union Theological Seminary [date]**