

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**School of Information**  
**Guide to Completing INF 398R: Master's Report**

**What is a Master's Report?**

A report is a substantive, publishable-quality paper synthesizing a domain or area of investigation that demonstrates familiarity with major concepts and issues in a theoretical and rigorous manner. It is one of three options for completion of the Master of Science in Information Studies. Topics may include concepts, theories, and research relevant to the field of interest to the student and approved by the faculty supervisor and likely will entail an exploration of problems and professional activities emerging from a student's program of study.

The master's report provides an opportunity to:

- develop greater understanding of a topic related to the field;
- explore problems and issues encountered during studies that require in-depth review and analysis;
- reflect student learning by serving as the final product of several years of study and reflection;
- demonstrate that the student is an insightful consumer of research, and can evaluate theory and research in the field;
- develop applications to a significant problem;
- represent a synthesis and application of the literature on a topic; and
- apply the critical evaluation of empirical studies on the topic.

The completed report should be formatted in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies. See Office of Graduate Studies for [forms and deadlines](http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/) (<http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/>) as well as their [FAQ](http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/etd/questions.html) (<http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/etd/questions.html>) on format requirements.

The Report consists of a document a minimum of 10,000 words, with supporting materials as necessary.

**Registration Requirements:**

1. Identify a faculty supervisor and a 2<sup>nd</sup> faculty reader.
2. Complete INF 397C, Research in Information Studies, in an earlier semester.
3. Enroll as a student pursuing a Master of Science in Information Studies.
4. Register in INF 398R (Master's Report.)
5. Download and complete required forms from the Office of Graduate Studies.  
<http://www.utexas.edu/ogs/pdn/#mf>
6. Complete, gather signatures on, and submit iSchool Master's Report Proposal Form.

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**PROPOSAL FOR INF 398R: MASTER'S REPORT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UT EID: \_\_\_\_\_

INF 398R Unique Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

INF 181E Unique Number\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If completing new core (INF 380C, INF 380E, INF 397C), you must be registered concurrently for INF 181E: Electronic Portfolio.*

**Instructions:**

The student should secure the signature of the faculty sponsor and second reader, and then submit this form to the Graduate Coordinator. The Coordinator will secure the signature of the Graduate Adviser.

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED GRADUATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED MASTER'S REPORT TITLE:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURES:**

Faculty Sponsor (print):

Date:

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>ND</sup> Faculty Reader (print):

Date:

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Advisor (print):

Date:

Signature:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MASTER'S REPORT PROPOSAL

**Instructions:** Please include in your proposal a discussion of the topic, research methods, and a tentative timeline.

**PROPOSAL TITLE:**