The Thesis is a formal, professional written document that describes the student’s original basic research that will contribute to the scope of knowledge in the field of public health.

The report should thoroughly and completely address the project undertaken. The final report should be presented to the faculty advisor by the appropriate deadline.

The contents of the Thesis should include:

**Abstract:** In 500 words or less, provide a summary of the project, including key points regarding the background and significance of the conducted research, the methods, the results and main conclusions.

**Background and Significance:** Provide a brief background description and literature relevant to the research problem. State the significance of the study and/or reasons for undertaking the research.

**Literature Review:** Thoroughly review the relevant literature published to date on the research topic including statistical data. Include the theoretical basis/framework for the proposed study. Provide definitions and explanation of terminology as needed.

**Hypothesis and/or Research Question(s):** State the research hypotheses or research questions to be explored. There may be one or more basic hypotheses with secondary hypotheses/research questions.

**Materials and Methods:** Include the basic research design, limitations of the research, sampling, testing, and data collection plan, laboratory techniques as appropriate, statistical analysis, evaluation methods, and project timeline. Indicate if the study was approved by the Tulane Biomedical IRB (if applicable).

**Results:** Describe the research findings in detail. Provide a discussion relevant to each of the specific findings. This may require one or more chapters, depending upon the hypotheses/research questions under consideration. Chapters might also include, as appropriate, additional specific methods that supplement those initially proposed in the Materials and Methods section.

**Discussion:** Provide an overall discussion of the results where main findings are highlighted as an introduction to this chapter. Limitations, validity, and bias should be addressed. The discussion should integrate the research findings from the individual hypotheses or research questions above. Implications for advancing basic knowledge in the selected area of public health should be addressed. Explain how the discipline specific research will contribute to the overall goals of public health.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** List the critical findings derived from the study. Provide recommendations for future research and address the implications of the study for public health.

**Appendices:** All questionnaires, data collection tools, or other materials developed for the project should be included as appendices, including lists of data that might not be deemed suitable because of their length in the Results section.