HELPFUL TIPS REGARDING A MASTER’S THESIS

* DO get started early in considering a topic and narrowing down. The sooner you start, the better.
* DO ask questions and talk to your professors for guidance and advice.
* DO understand a thesis means extra time spent in your degree program.
* DO expect to write multiple drafts of your proposal, chapters, literature review, etc.
* DO think of the thesis as a process, not simply an outcome. The research and writing process is extremely valuable to your personal and professional development. While you might feel you are not progressing quickly in your writing, remember the actual process is as valuable as the final product.
* DO know a thesis is very hard work. It will probably be the most difficult task you have faced in school so far, but it is extremely rewarding!
* DO NOT expect to complete your thesis in one semester. It is only possible in extremely unusual circumstances. Unlike a regular class, remember registering for thesis hours in one semester does not necessarily mean you will have finished when the semester ends.
* DO NOT choose the thesis option if you are not a strong writer or do not enjoy writing.
* DO NOT expect your faculty/thesis adviser to write the thesis with you or “hand hold” 5 days a week. Advisers guide, mentor, and direct the process. Students must be independent, self-motivated, and highly disciplined.
* DO NOT assume a faculty member will agree to advise your thesis. Faculty members are not obligated to agree to advise a thesis, especially if they determine a master’s thesis is not an appropriate fit for your program of study. Without a thesis adviser, a student cannot complete a thesis.