Department of Defense and Strategic Studies Graduate Program
Declaration of Selection of Thesis or Non-Thesis Oral Examination/Research Paper Option

This form should be completed and approved upon completion of 18 credit hours of the program.

Name: ____________________________  M Number: ____________________________

Semester and Year to be Completed ____________________________________________

I hereby declare my intention to (select one):

O Write an 80-100 page thesis on a DSS-related topic approved by the Thesis/Non-Thesis Coordinator and my Thesis Committee. I understand that:

- The thesis must be wholly my original work;
- The thesis must be fully referenced in the academic style as required by MSU;
- I am responsible to form a thesis committee consisting of a first, second, and third reader, all of whom are members of the DSS graduate faculty;
- I must observe all deadlines established by DSS relative to the timely submission of the thesis

O Take an oral examination and write a 20-page research paper on a DSS-related topic approved by the Thesis/Non-Thesis Coordinator and my Exam Board. I understand that:

- The research paper must be wholly my original work;
- I am responsible to form an oral examination board consisting of two DSS faculty members from the DSS program;
- I am required to take a two-to three-hour oral examination administered by the Board;
- Two weeks before the exam, I must submit to the members of the Board my research paper

I understand that this declaration constitutes a commitment that can be changed only with the permission of the Thesis/Non-Thesis Coordinator Dr. Andrei Shoumikhin.

Student Signature: ____________________________  Date: ______________

Approvals Section

The above-named student’s declaration is acknowledged and approved.

DSS Thesis/Non-Thesis Coordinator: ____________________________  Date: ______________

DSS Program Department Head: ____________________________  Date: ______________