



**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 no later than the end of the second semester of the program

Name: _____ M Number: _____

Semester and Year to be Completed _____

I hereby declare my intention to (select one):

- 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

- Take an oral examination and write a 25-30 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 three DSS faculty members from whom I have taken a course during 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 under demonstrably extraordinary circumstances and with the permission of the Thesis/Non-Thesis Coordinator, who is 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: _____