For 7.1.5 and 7.1.6, the phrase “in a timely manner” is important. That’s what Bill wanted it on our “Availability to Public” page (<https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/thesis/availability/>) . That phrase has always been there, and it means that we should limit the use of embargos. We had updated our page and thought it would be good to update the handbook language and link as well. The page also specifies guidelines for sponsored research and intellectual property research that were previously not available, and that led to inconsistencies in theses/dissertations being adequately formatted for public access.

We also wanted to include the working definitions as well because many students get confused between creative components and theses.

Let me know if these clarifications help.

Best,

Lily

(Copied below for our refresher)

**7.1.5 Dissertation or Thesis and 7.1.6 Creative Component**

**Action Item**: Add clarifying details to the existing text.

7.1.5 Dissertation or Thesis

A doctoral degree or master’s degree (thesis option) will require a final piece of written research, i.e. a doctoral dissertation or a master’s thesis. This research must be made available to the public in a timely manner. (See [Available to Public](https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/thesis/availability/))

**7.1.6 Creative Component**

A master's degree (non-thesis option) will require a creative component that presents substantial evidence of individual accomplishment…As with a thesis, a creative component should be submitted to members of the POS committee two weeks before the final oral examination. After graduation, the creative component must be made available to the public in a timely manner. (See [Available to Public](https://www.grad-college.iastate.edu/thesis/availability/))