

**ABSTRACT**

**Name of Institution:** De La Salle University - Dasmariñas

**Address:** DBB-B Dasmariñas, Cavite 4115

**Title:** A Study on the Readiness, Competency and Problems Encountered by AB Communication and AB Broadcast Journalism Students Doing Their Thesis

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**Objectives of the Study:**

1. To determine the readiness of the students in writing and conducting their thesis
2. To examine if the students are competent in writing and conducting their thesis
3. To find out the different problems being faced by the students in doing their thesis
4. To analyze the thesis making process of the students



5. To strengthen the relationship between thesis professor and student in order to produce quality studies.

**Scope and Coverage:**

The researchers focused only on the readiness and competency of the students of COM and JOU under the Communication Arts Department of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas for school year 2008-2009, as well as the problems they encountered when they conducted their thesis.

The researchers did not however evaluate the teaching strategies of the professors nor their competency to teach their respective subjects. Also, the researchers did not evaluate the role of the thesis advisers in relation with conducting the thesis neither.

The focus of this study was the students and how they conducted their thesis.

**Methodology:**

The researchers made use of survey method, personal interview, focus group discussion and observational method to obtain pertinent information for this study.

**Major Findings:**

Time management matters. Students work on a deadline with multiple projects in mind which leads the students to submit thesis works just “to pass the subject” and not for what Bormann says research should be for-- “higher learning”.

The researchers also discovered qualms from the respondents on the designated roles of the thesis professor and the thesis adviser.



The thesis guidelines that were implemented during the middle of the thesis making process were a welcome development on the part of the students, but the respondents described the guidelines to be given too late in the thesis making process thus leading them to start from the beginning again when they should have been almost half done.

With regard to the readiness and competency of the students when doing their thesis, respondents said they knew how to conduct their study and how to write it, the problem was lack of sufficient time to do so.

Although most of the respondents said that they are competent, the researchers observed that they are not as competent and ready as they believe they are. There are students who consider thesis a burden.

The researchers believe that the students are ready to do their study, but are not competent in handling it.

The researchers observed that the students are prepared to do their thesis, the curriculum has prepared them well. But they have a hard time handling doing a research, and balancing it with other subject requirements and extra-curricular activities, which leads to “half baked” outputs.

The researchers believe that the student’s outputs become less “scholarly” written due to the effects of the Cognitive Dissonance theory. Rejection tends to make the students lose interest in doing their thesis.

#### **Conclusions:**

The curriculum prepares the students to do their study but the students are not yet fully competent in doing their thesis

There are many problems that hinder the students’ effectiveness in doing their thesis.

**Recommendations:**Communication Arts Department (CAD)

1. For the Department to look into bringing in additional teachers who have similar expertise in Communication Research.

CAD Faculty

1. For the thesis professor of Communication Research 1 to be the thesis professor of Communication Research 2 so that there is continuity.
2. To have a clear and defined policy on the accountability, responsibilities and scope and function between the thesis teacher and thesis adviser.

COM and JOU students

1. For students to supplement classroom learning in research with readings and attendance to research-related seminars and activities.
2. For the students to continuously look for possible topics which are more viable and can contribute immensely to the body of knowledge in the field of communication and media.
3. For students to keep themselves physically and mentally fit to prepare for the rigorous requirements of the thesis preparation.
4. For students to develop strong team play, leadership and a sense of cooperation through activities that they undergo in different subjects to make them prepared for the requirements of doing their thesis writing in a group.



5. For students to include OJT experiences in research-related institutes and agencies.

#### Future Researchers

1. For future researchers to study the readiness, competency and problems encountered by the professors in the CAD.
2. For future researchers to study in-depth the thesis guidelines set forth by the CAD.
3. For future researchers to conduct an in-depth analysis on the new improvements (circa 2008-2009) on the policies enunciated by the Department.

