In addition to thoughtful, semi-annual conversations with faculty, the faculty will conduct one review with MTS students. These reviews must be completed by March 31. This will be an individual review.

The review will be the oral defense of the Master’s thesis, the summative project in the student’s degree program. Students who do not write a thesis will have their graduation review focused on a portfolio which they will submit. The portfolio should include either two 15 page research papers in the student’s field of concentration, or two 15 page research papers that explore a similar theme or topic from the perspective of two different disciplines.

Two faculty members will conduct the review: a faculty member from the student’s field of concentration and the student’s academic advisor (or someone appointed to act in her/his behalf). The advisor will be responsible for setting the date for the review and writing up the review report.

All review documents should be submitted electronically to Sheila Allen in the Master’s Level Office and to the faculty members participating in the review. Thesis drafts are due no later than March 15, and portfolios are due in mid-January.

The review will include:

1. A brief presentation (10-15 minutes) by the student about her/his academic work as represented in the thesis or the portfolio.

   Students defending a thesis should be prepared to articulate the central argument of the thesis, describe their research methods, discuss the academic grounding of the thesis, and present the major conclusions.

   Students defending a portfolio should be prepared to articulate the arguments found in their research papers, discuss their research methods and academic foundations, and present their findings.

2. Following the student’s presentation, the faculty members will engage in a discussion with the student about their written work, research, writing, and development as a scholar.

3. Students should also be prepared to discuss briefly their response to the following questions:
   - What are your vocational plans after graduation and how has this degree program prepared you?
   - In what ways has your experience at McCormick challenged your growth spiritually and theologically?
   - How can McCormick improve its academic programs?