Students who wish to write an MA Thesis, should review the university instructions on this website: http://www.calstatela.edu/graduatethesis.

And, do the following:

1. During the semester prior to the one in which the student plans to write a thesis, the student should assemble a committee and have it approve an MA thesis proposal. The thesis committee must consist of three professors, and one of the three may be from outside the Political Science department. One of the professors in the Political Science department must agree to be the chair of the committee.

2. During the semester prior, the student must prepare a thesis proposal of at least five pages in length that will describe: a) the topic of the thesis, b) the main research question(s); c) what kind of research materials will be utilized; and d) the relevant substantive and theoretical literature in political science that will be addressed. The exact requirements for the proposal are at the discretion of the designated thesis committee chair. If the thesis proposal is approved by the committee, the student can proceed with writing the thesis and enrolling in POLS 5990.

3. During the semester in which the student will write a thesis, the student shall enroll in POLS 5990. Students who write an MA thesis may, with the approval of the M.A. advisor, substitute 3 thesis units for one required seminar of their choosing. Students may also take an additional 3 units if they are unable to successfully complete their thesis within one semester.

4. Once a student has enrolled in POLS 5990 (beyond the semester drop deadline), they cannot reverse direction and take the comprehensive exam; they must complete the MA thesis (in that semester, or the one which follows).