

Guidelines for Manuscript-Style Master's or Doctoral Theses

As an alternative to the traditional thesis format, a *manuscript-style thesis* consists of a collection of papers of which the student is an author or co-author. These papers must be presented in a cohesive manner and with a coherent theme. The decision to proceed with a manuscript-type thesis is decided in consultation with the student's supervisor(s) or supervisory committee, who must ensure that all the criteria listed below are met, and will ensure the thesis conforms to the format outlined below.

Note that the criteria set out below may vary by program. For instance, some programs may choose to not have a specified minimum number of papers required for a Master's or a Doctoral thesis; in addition, the conditions on prior publication or acceptance for publication of the manuscripts may be omitted.

CRITERIA

The following criteria are recommended for the submission of a manuscript-style thesis.

1. The student must be the first or primary author (that is, the author who has made the most substantial contribution) of the papers included in the thesis.
2. At most one paper included in the thesis may be submitted but not yet accepted. The papers should be published, in-press, or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals in the student's field of study.
3. For a Master's thesis, the thesis must contain a minimum of one paper.
4. For a Doctoral thesis, the thesis must contain a minimum of three papers.

FORMAT

The format of manuscript-style theses must conform to that of traditional theses, except for the following changes.

5. As a preface or part of a general introduction (see item 6. below), the student should include a statement of co-authorship. For papers with co-authors, the student must outline their contribution with respect to the conception of the experiments, data collection, data analysis, and writing the text. Data that was collected or experimental techniques that were conducted by someone other than the student must be clearly indicated.
6. In the general introduction to the thesis, emphasis should be placed on developing the relationships between the papers and providing a coherent theme for the overall thesis.
7. Each paper will correspond to a separate chapter. In each chapter, rather than repeating each of the individual introductions, redundancy should be avoided. To ensure logical flow, connecting text should be included bridging each chapter to the next and previous ones.
8. Citations, cross-references, figures, and tables, etc. must be re-numbered to conform to the appropriate chapter of the thesis. Multiple reference lists must be avoided.
9. For papers included in the thesis, full citations to those publications must be included in the thesis.
10. Where possible and in conformation with the local norms in a given discipline, a concluding chapter should be included which ties together topics and themes from the papers and points towards future work.