

Formatting Guide for Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

Policies, Procedures, and Requirements for ETDs: A Resource



The Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Graduate School
University of South Carolina

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the 2024 Edition

Welcome to the University of South Carolina’s formatting guide for theses and dissertations! We hope you will find this document useful as you navigate the myriad complexities of formatting your thesis or dissertation. We have updated the information in this guide to help you format your dissertation or thesis as smoothly as possible. Please check out our myriad other resources on our [Thesis and Dissertation](#) webpage.

Why Formatting is Important

Formatting may seem trivial, but it is in fact an integral part of your document’s overall presentation. Your thesis or dissertation could contain some of the most important and innovative research in your field, but if it is presented in a sloppy manner—if your fonts don’t match, your margins are skewed, your heading choices are inconsistent, your entries in the table of contents don’t match what is in your document—then the brilliance and innovation of your research will be hidden behind a poor presentation. Instead, the poor formatting will obscure your research because the mistakes will appear far more readily apparent than what you actually have to say.

Moreover, as you progress in your post-graduate career, you will undoubtedly pursue publishing in academic journals or books, or you will apply for grants and research funding. All of these kinds of publications have formatting requirements—requirements that you will be expected to follow in order to be considered acceptable—so it is important to focus on formatting and adhering to requirements.

At the Graduate School, we have created formatting requirements that apply to all theses and dissertations equally to ensure your document is formatted properly and consistently. Meeting these requirements is essential not only to graduating, but to guaranteeing your document is able to be read by fellow scholars, meets publishing standards for journals and databases, and, above all, will be presentable and polished enough to ensure your work is taken seriously.

ETD COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

ETD Coordinator: Laura Kotti Walsh

Email: kotti@mailbox.sc.edu

Phone: 803-777-4244

Appointments: All appointments take place on Microsoft Teams. Email Mrs. Kotti Walsh if you would like to meet with her.

DEADLINES

You must meet three key deadlines to qualify for graduation. These deadlines are **required**, not optional. You must follow the deadlines for the semester in which you intend to graduate.

Deadline	Description	Date(s)
Format Check Deadline (a.k.a., “Preliminary Format Check”)	First deadline you must meet. This is the date by which must submit your work for the first time. Your work does not have to be finalized, and you CAN change the content and formatting after this date. This deadline is required. You can view a sample of an acceptable preliminary format check submission on the Graduate School’s Thesis and Dissertation page .	Early in the semester. Fall: early October Spring: early March Summer: late June or early July
Defense Deadline	This is the date by which you must defend your thesis or dissertation. This deadline is required.	In between the format check and final submission deadlines. Fall: late October or early November Spring: mid to late March Summer: mid-July
Final Submission Deadline	The deadline by which you must submit your final version. You CANNOT change the content after this date. This deadline is required.	Late in the semester. Fall: mid-November Spring: early April Summer: late July

Note: You will use one account and one submission ID for *all uploads, including your final one*. To learn how to resubmit your document correctly, [visit our website](#) or view the [instructional video](#) on resubmitting your document through ProQuest.

EMBARGOES

If you wish to publish any of your work or need to prevent other scholars from viewing or downloading your work, you can request an **embargo**. This option can keep your work from becoming accessible for an allotted amount of time. *Note that work cannot be embargoed permanently.* As a public institution, USC can only embargo work for a total of 10 years.

Embargo Process

To request an embargo, you will need to complete three steps:

1. When creating your account in ETD Administrator, select the “Delayed Release” option and choose your desired length (*note: do NOT choose “other,” which will delay the processing of your ETD and impact your graduation eligibility*):
 - a. 6 months;
 - b. 1 year; or
 - c. 2 years.
2. Indicate your desired embargo length on the required signature form in the section labeled "Delayed Release (embargo)" on either the:
 - a. [Thesis Signature Form \(G-TSF\)](#) for Master’s students; or
 - b. [Dissertation Signature Form \(G-DSF\)](#) for Doctoral students.
3. Submit an embargo memo to [your coordinator at the Graduate School](#) justifying your request. The memo must contain the following:
 - a. Name of student and USC ID (9-digit alphanumeric number; example: A12345678);
 - b. Title of electronic thesis or dissertation;
 - c. Justification for embargo;
 - d. Length of embargo (6 months, 1 year, or 2 years); and
 - e. Signature of major professor and graduate director.

Embargo Renewals

At the end of your embargo, you have the option to renew. You can renew in an increment of 6 months, 1 year, or 2 years. You are not required to use the same embargo length as before. Altogether, you can embargo your work for a total of 10 years cumulatively, renewing at one of the allotted intervals.

Each extension request must be accompanied by a letter from the major professor or department head (if the major professor is no longer at the institution) justifying the extension, and all extensions are subject to approval by the Graduate School.

Extension requests must be received by the Graduate School **at least thirty days before the expiration** of the previous embargo period.

It is also important to note that students have a separate agreement with ProQuest/UMI that is not affected by any embargo requests made to the University of South Carolina; likewise, any agreement students have with ProQuest/UMI does not affect their agreement with the University.

To renew your embargo with ProQuest, you will need to contact them directly at [+1 800 521 0600](tel:+18005210600) or by [visiting their website](#).

TEMPLATES

The Graduate School has templates in two different forms that you can download to simplify the process. The first is in Microsoft Word, and the second is in LaTeX. You can download both of these templates from the [Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation page](#).

Word Template

There is a new Word template available, and you can download the .zip file from the Graduate School's website. This .zip file contains the full Word template, individual templates, and a user guide. When you download this .zip folder, the files will be saved on your computer as .dotx files, meaning they are considered templates in Word; you can create as many documents from these files as you wish.

Features

The new Word template features include:

- Automatic table of contents, list of tables, and list of figures;
- Heading styles;
- Major heading styles with the top margin built-in;
- Instructional boxes;
- Drop menus to select correct information on the title page.

LaTeX Template

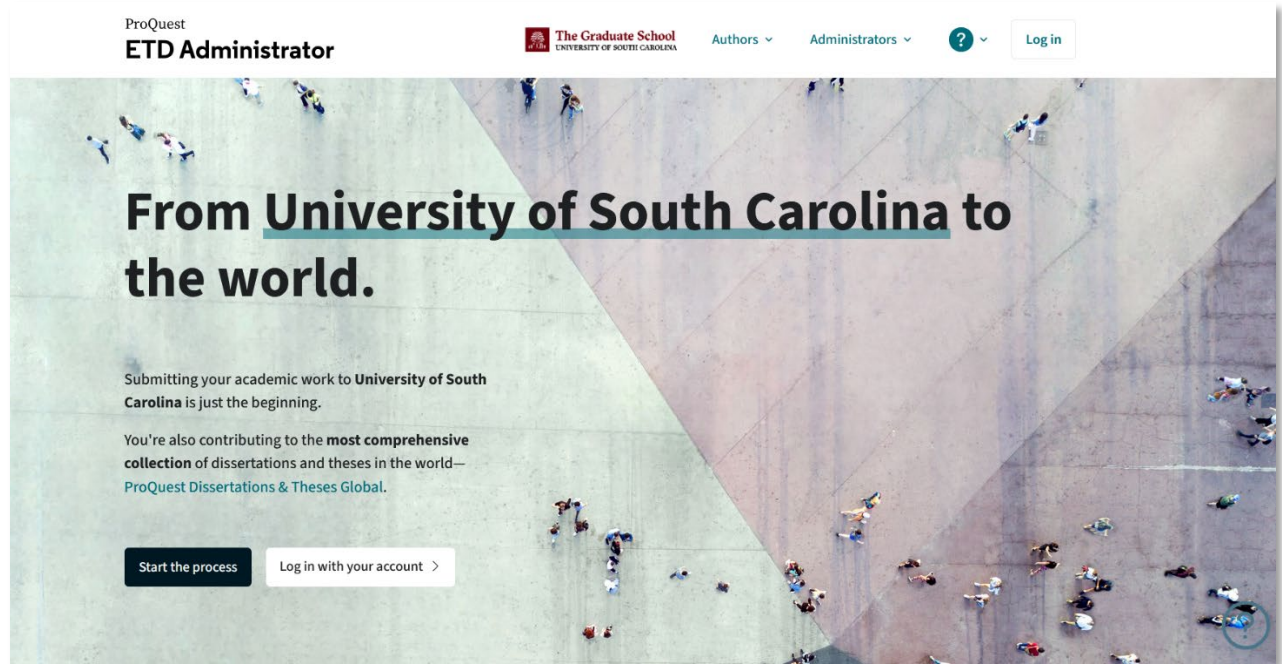
The LaTeX template is best suited for dissertations in science, engineering, and math, but any student is welcome to use it. You will also download a .zip folder containing the files and guides. Note that you will need both a distributor and an editor to work with LaTeX—and you must download the distributor first to ensure the editor works properly:

- [MikTeX](#): a distributor that comes with its own editor, [TeXLive](#).
- [TexMaker](#): editor that is user-friendly for beginners.
- [Overleaf](#): an entirely online TeX distributor and editor that has a robust support guide.
- [The LaTeX Project at Github](#): support site for LaTeX.
- [Comprehensive TeX Archive Network \(CTAN\)](#): resource site for LaTeX.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ETD FOR THE FORMAT CHECK

ProQuest's ETD Administrator

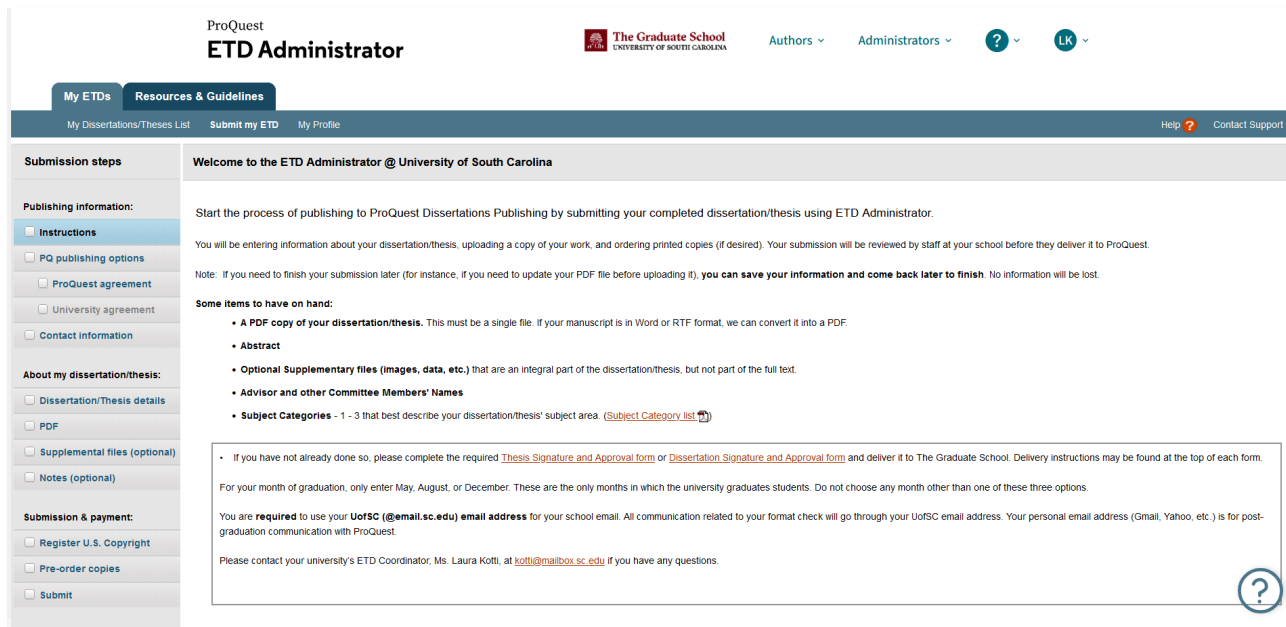
You will create an account in ProQuest's site called [ETD Administrator](#), and you will use this same account and same submission ID for all uploads, including the final one. You can access this site by visiting the Graduate School's [Submission Instructions page](#). Here is an image of the page you should see; you can also click on this image to visit the site.



To begin, click on the button that reads, "Start the Process." You can also visit the "Resources & Guidelines" tab to access the many resources provided by the Graduate School and ProQuest.

Creating Your Account: Important Reminders

There are many steps you will have to complete to finalize your account. The image below shows the steps you must complete, including reading instructions, choosing publishing options such as a delayed release, entering your information, and uploading your document. You can access [ProQuest's ETD Administrator LibGuide](#) for more resources.



Here are some important steps and tips to remember as you create your account:

Tip	Reminders
Copyright and Hard Copies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copyright and hard copy orders are optional. • Copyright: You CANNOT request ProQuest files for copyright on your behalf after you make your account. ProQuest does not allow this. • Anything you pay for will be applied at the end to your final version that passes the format check. Do not worry if you are uploading an incomplete version. • You can order hard copies after you graduate, but the copyright option is only available when you first create your account. • You can always file for copyright as an individual with the U.S. Copyright Office later. See the Copyright section.
Email addresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required to use two email addresses: USC email and personal (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.). • USC email is for format check communication. • Personal email is for post-graduation communication.

Tip	Reminders
Graduation Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May, August, or December only. • Do not put any other graduation month. • Graduation date and year of manuscript completion must be the same.
ETD and Student Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All information in your ETD account must match university records and title page information. • Your name must be the same as your name in university records. • If you need to change your name for any reason, visit the Registrar’s website to access their name change form.
One Account for ALL submissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use only one account <i>and one submission ID</i> for all submissions. • Do not create new submissions or accounts as you revise your ETD.

Preliminary Format Check

The preliminary format check deadline is the date by which you must submit your document for the first time. Your document does not need to be complete, but you do need to include at least the required parts (see the [Document Order section](#)). You can learn more about this deadline by reading the [“Deadlines” part of this guide](#). The Graduate School’s website also has preliminary format check [samples you can view](#), both with notes and without notes.

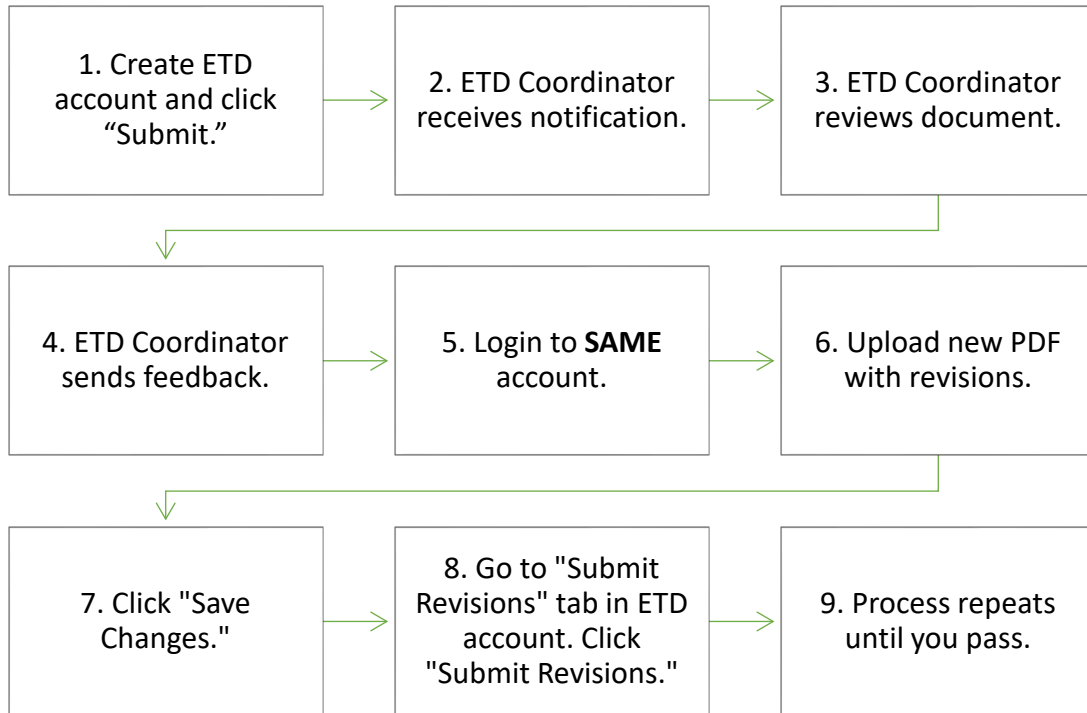
Resubmitting Your Work

You will return to your account and look for the entry with the submission ID you originally used. There should be a box you can click on that says “Revise.” Go there and upload your new PDF. To learn more, you can view a [video detailing the exact steps to take](#) when resubmitting. It is most important to follow these steps to avoid accidentally creating a new account or submitting your document incorrectly—both of which can derail your graduation eligibility. The submission ID must be the same for all submissions.

Final Submission

You will upload your final version by the final submission deadline. You must continue using the same account with the same submission ID. To submit your final version, you will follow the same steps used when you resubmitted previously. By this deadline, you must submit your finalized, committee-approved, most perfectly formatted version. *You cannot make changes to your document after this deadline.*

Format Check Process

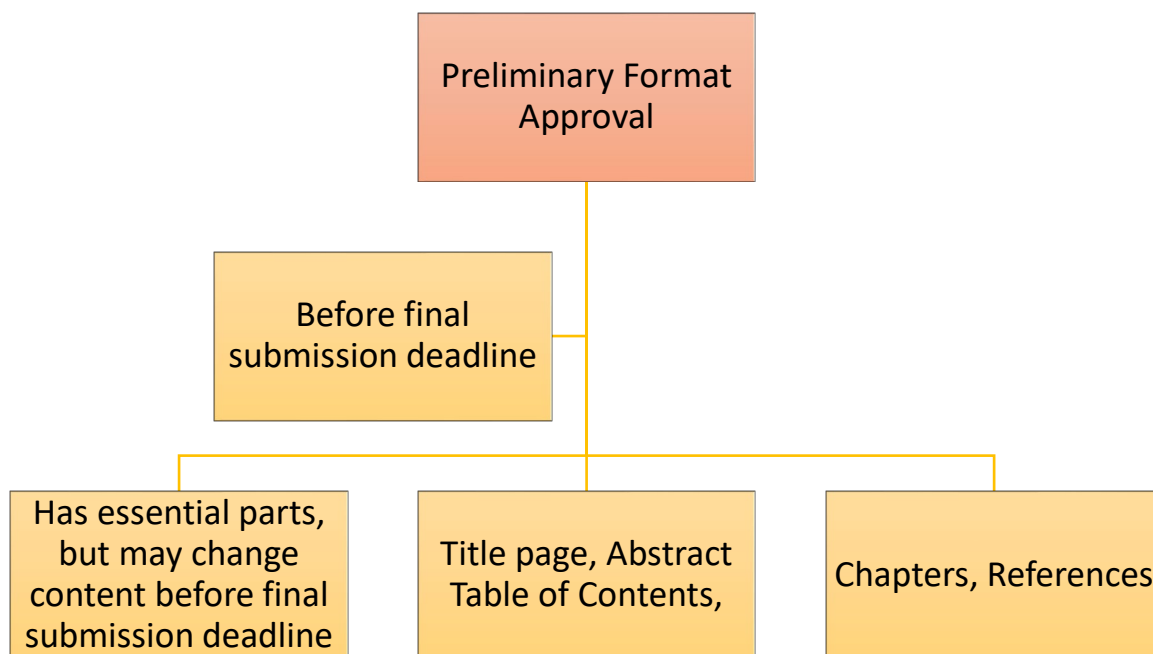


After You Pass the Format Check

What happens after you pass the format check depends on where we are in the semester. The following flow charts show what happens if you pass the format check before the final submission deadline and after the final submission deadline.

You will receive a notification email from the ETD Coordinator notifying you that you have passed the format check. Depending on where you are in your writing process and the point of the semester at which you pass, you will either receive a preliminary format approval or a final approval.

Preliminary Format Approval



To qualify for a preliminary format approval, your document must have at least a completed title page, abstract, table of contents, chapters, references. This approval status is for students who pass the format check prior to the final submission deadline.

If you receive preliminary format approval but anticipate making changes to the content, **you must let the ETD Coordinator know this**. Your document will not receive final submission approval until the content and the formatting are both finalized, complete, and free of errors. A note will be added to your account stating which version has an acceptable format. [Your coordinator at the Graduate School](#) will *not* be assigned to your account at this stage.

Please note that the preliminary format approval is not a required stage. Whether you receive preliminary format approval or final submission approval depends entirely on where you are in the writing and formatting process. This status has no bearing on your graduation eligibility.

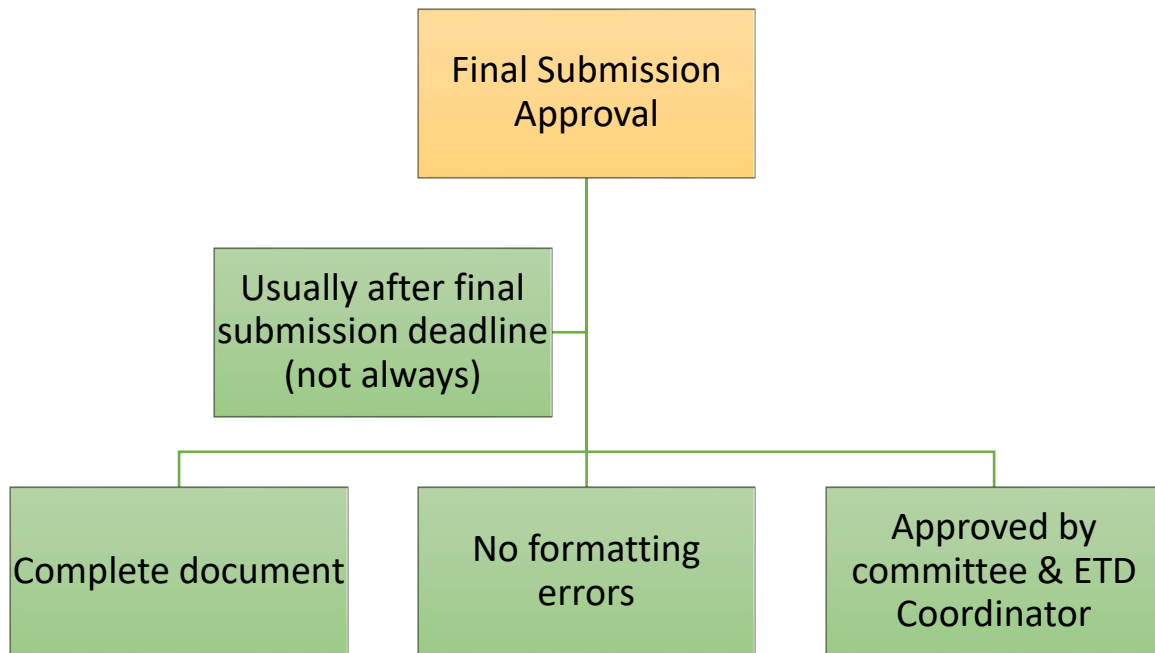
Final Submission Approval

Your document will receive final submission approval after you:

1. Pass the format check; and
2. Have all content finalized and approved by committee.

The document that receives final submission approval is the one that will be published. All documents must receive final submission approval for you to remain eligible to graduate.

Final submission approval requires content clearance from your committee and final format approval from the ETD Coordinator.



After Final Submission Approval

After you receive final submission approval, the ETD Coordinator will add a note to your account specifying which version of your document has passed the format check, and she will assign your coordinator at the Graduate School to your account.

Your coordinator will process your graduation paperwork in its entirety, which can take several weeks. Your ETD account may still say “in review,” but that does not mean your ETD has not been approved. If you ever have questions about your graduation status after you have received final submission approval, you can [contact your coordinator](#).

ETD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question	Answer
I passed the format check. Why does my account still say, “submission in review”?	The graduation clearance process takes several weeks. Your status simply reflects the fact that your coordinator at the Graduate School is hard at work on processing all of your graduation documents, including your dissertation. Rest assured: if you have received a confirmation email from the ETD Coordinator, then you have passed the format check.
I originally didn’t want to order copyright, but now I do. Can I just delete my account and start over? If not, what can I do?	No, you cannot delete your account and start a new one. Doing so will erase your submission records and jeopardize your graduation eligibility. ProQuest does not let students retroactively request the copyright option; however, you can still file for copyright as an individual with the U.S. Copyright Office at https://www.copyright.gov/ .
How can I order a hard copy?	If you wait until after you create your account or after you graduate to order hard copies, you have two options. You can contact ProQuest directly and order one through their site. Your other option is to order a copy through USC’s printing services .
Is the format check deadline optional?	No, the format check deadline (also called a “preliminary format check”) is required . You must meet both the format check deadline and the final submission deadline to qualify for graduation.
Do I have to wait until after I have defended to submit my document for the format check?	No, you do not have to wait until after you have defended. You may submit your document for the format check prior to your defense. In fact, the earlier you submit, the sooner you will receive feedback from the ETD Coordinator.
How do I submit my document for the format check? May I email my Word document to the Graduate School?	The Graduate School does not accept submissions via email. To submit your document for the format check, you must use ProQuest’s ETD Administrator . Please review the Submission Instructions page on our website or the How to Submit Your ETD for the Format Check section of this guide.

Question	Answer
Does my document need to be completed and do I need to pass the format check by the format check deadline?	No, your document only needs to be submitted <i>for the first time</i> by the format check deadline. You must pass the format check and have all content finalized and approved by the final submission deadline, which is later in the semester.
Can I make changes to my document after the format check deadline?	Yes. The initial version you submit will not be considered the final version, and you have until the final submission deadline to resubmit.
How early can I submit for the format check? Is a year in advance too early?	Try to submit during the semester in which you intend to graduate.
Can I make changes to my document after the final submission has been accepted?	No. You cannot make any changes whatsoever to your document after it has been accepted. This rule applies to both content changes and format changes. If you must make a change after the final submission deadline, then you will be ineligible to graduate in the current semester, and the earliest you can be eligible to graduate will be the following semester.
I passed the format check. Do I need to submit my document officially to the Graduate School? Is there a separate system to submit for the Graduate School?	No. By submitting your document through ProQuest, you have already submitted your document to the Graduate School. After you pass the format check, you do not need to resubmit your document at all. You are all set.
I'm writing a 3-manuscript dissertation. Do I really need a full bibliography at the end of my dissertation?	Yes, you are required to have a full bibliography regardless of whether you have manuscript chapters. Please see the Manuscript Style section for more information.
Am I required to submit a bound copy?	No, you are only required to submit the electronic version as a PDF through the ETD Administrator system. The university does not accept or preserve bound copies.

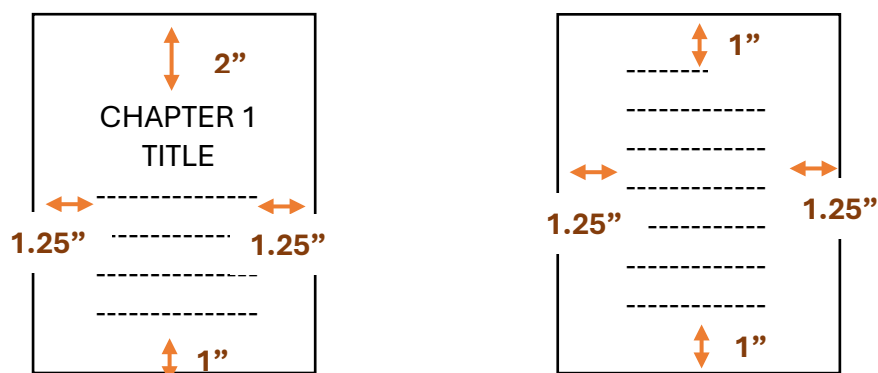
GENERAL FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Margins

Every page of your ETD must be printable on standard 8.5" x 11" paper. Do **not** include borders on your document, and do **not** have any kind of running head or header. Your final document must follow these requirements for margins:

Portrait Orientation

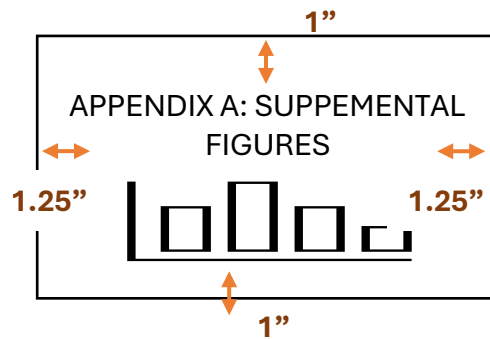
1. Left and right margins must be set at 1.25" on every page, including pages containing footnotes, appendices, charts, graphs, tables, figures, etc.
2. Top margins must be 2" for all pages with a major heading (see the list of major headings below) and for the first page of each chapter.
3. After the first page of a major section, all other pages must have 1" top margins.
4. Bottom margins must be set at 1" throughout.
5. All content on every page must fit within these margins, including tables, figures, footnotes, etc.



Landscape Orientation

Landscape orientation is only used for tables and figures that are too large to fit on a portrait-oriented page. Here are the margin requirements:

1. Top and bottom margins (long sides) must be 1.25".
2. Left and right margins (short sides) must be 1".
3. All content on the landscape page must fit within these margins.
4. For pages with a major heading on a landscape page, use these same margins. You do not need a 2" top margin on a *landscape* page with a major heading.



Only tables/figures should be placed on landscape pages; no paragraphs should be included on a landscape page. You may find an example of a correctly formatted landscape page in the sample dissertation on the [Graduate School's website](#).

Page Numbers

Page numbers must be centered 0.5" from the bottom of the page (i.e., in the "footer" of the page). This placement applies to both landscape and portrait pages. There will be two pagination sequences in your document:

1. A lowercase Roman numeral sequence; and
2. An Arabic numeral sequence.

You must follow these requirements when numbering your pages:

- a) The title page should **not** display a number, but it still "counts" in the pagination sequence.
- b) Use lowercase Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.) to number your front matter pages (Acknowledgements, Dedication, Abstract, etc.).
- c) Beginning with the foreword/introduction or the first page of your first chapter, use Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) to number all remaining pages of your document, including the bibliography and any appendices.
- d) This new sequence begins at "1"; do not continue the sequence from your front matter. You should not start a new numbering sequence for each chapter or section, but instead continue the same sequence for the remainder of the thesis/dissertation.
- e) Page numbers on landscape-oriented pages must also be centered 0.5" from the bottom of the page (i.e., the "footer" of the page).
- f) Use the same font for the page numbers as you use for all other text in your document.

Line Spacing

Paragraphs in the front matter sections and in the chapters of your document must be **double-spaced**. Refer to your style manual (e.g., APA, MLA, Turabian, etc.) when determining how to space things such as block quotes, bibliographic entries, endnotes and footnotes, and so forth.

Paragraphs

The first line of each new paragraph must be indented; however, you have the option not to indent the very first paragraph of a chapter or section.

Either left-justification or full-justification is acceptable for text in the body of your document; however, you should choose one method and use it consistently.

There should be no skipped lines or added space between paragraphs, above headings, or in between sections. The text must run continuously from paragraph to paragraph without large blank spaces on the pages.

Fonts

Style

You may choose **one** of these fonts for **all text** in your document:

- Aptos
- Arial
- Calibri
- Courier New
- Palatino
- Tahoma
- Times New Roman

You can only use one of these fonts for all text in your entire document. This includes text/content, page numbers, footnotes, endnotes, figures, tables, entries in the table of contents and other front matter, table titles, figure captions—essentially every single piece of writing in your entire document can only be in your **one** chosen font. Do not switch back and forth between different fonts.

Do not use any color besides black. The use of color in illustrations, figures, graphs, etc. is permitted, but not for text. Hyperlinks are acceptable.

Embed Fonts

ProQuest/UMI requires that all fonts used in your document must be embedded in the final PDF you submit. To embed fonts in Microsoft Word,

1. Click on the **File** tab, then click **Options** (it's near the bottom left corner of the window).
2. In the left column, select the **Save** tab.
3. At the bottom, under **Preserve fidelity when sharing this document**, select the **Embed fonts in the file** box.

Preserve fidelity when sharing this document: Document1

Embed fonts in the file ⁱ

Embed only the characters used in the document (best for reducing file size)

Do not embed common system fonts

You will see two checkboxes: Embed only the characters used in the document and Do not embed common system fonts.

Selecting **Embed only the characters used in the document** reduces the file size but limits editing of the file using the same font. This checkbox is common for both Word and PowerPoint.

In Word, selecting **Do not embed common system fonts** may increase the file size, but it is best for allowing others to edit the document and keep the same font.

4. Click **Ok**.

Size

For text in the body of your document, you must use size 12 font only. This requirement pertains to text on the title page, front matter, page numbers, chapters, appendices, figure captions, and table titles.

For headings, you have the option to use either 12- or 14-point font. Either choice is acceptable, but you must be consistent. Footnotes and endnotes may be size 10-12.

For writing and data within your tables, you have the option use sizes between 10- and 12-point font. Your tables will need to fit within the required margins, so keep this in mind as you format your tables. Your table *titles*, however, must be in size 12. Figure numbers and captions should also be in size 12. Visit the [Tables](#) and [Figures](#) sections of the format guide to learn more.

Widows and Orphans

The first or last line of a paragraph, a heading, or a subheading must not be isolated by a page break. Such isolated lines are called “widows” or “orphans,” and most word processors can be set to prevent them. If you have a heading appear at the bottom of a page, simply move the heading to the top of the following page to avoid this situation.

Headings and Subheadings

Major Headings

Major headings are the “titles” at the top of the first page of a chapter or major section. Here is a list of all major headings:

- Dedication
- Acknowledgements
- Abstract
- Preface
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures
- List of Symbols
- List of Abbreviations
- Foreword or Introduction
- Chapter titles (e.g., “Chapter 1: Introduction”)
- References (or bibliography, works cited, etc.)
- Appendix titles (e.g., “Appendix A: Permission to Reprint”)

The Graduate School only has three requirements for formatting your major headings:

1. *Placement*: all major headings must be **centered**;
2. *Size*: major headings may only be size 12- or 14-point font; and
3. *Consistency*: all major headings must use the same style you create consistently in terms of size, italics or bold, capitalization, etc.

Students should refer to the standards set by their departments’ choice of style manuals. Regardless of which style you use, all heading and subheading formatting must be consistent throughout your document. Example: if you decide to center some major headings in size 14 bold font, then all major headings must be centered in size 14 bold font.

Subheadings

“Subheadings” refers to the headings you use *within* a chapter. The only requirements the Graduate School has for subheadings are:

1. *Size*: 12- or 14-point font; and
2. *Consistency*: You must apply whatever style you use consistently in every chapter. This applies to numbering, bold, italics, etc.

You can have as many levels of subheadings in your document as you wish; however, in the table of contents you can only *display* one level of subdivision. You can read more about this requirement in the [Table of Contents](#) section.



Tables

Placement

You may **choose one** of the following options when inserting tables or figures into your document:



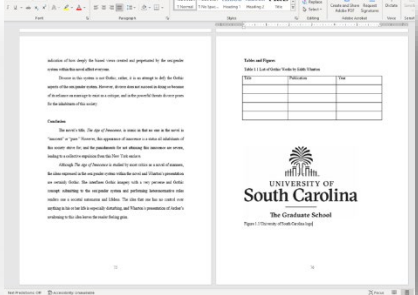
Option	Description	Example
<p>Option 1: Embed the table or figure in the text.</p>	<p>Do not use text wrapping around the sides of the item. Text should only appear above and/or below the item.</p>	
<p>Option 2: Place the table or figure on a separate page immediately following the page where it is first cited.</p>	<p>Do not leave any extra space at the bottom of the preceding page. The text should run continuously.</p>	
<p>Option 3: Insert all tables and figures at the end of each chapter.</p>	<p>All of the tables & figures should be placed on consecutive pages, followed by figures. Place the items in the same order to which they are referred in the text. If your chapter is in manuscript style and has references, place the tables and figures after the references.</p>	

Table Requirements

- Titles should begin with the word “Table”, followed by the number of the chapter, a period, and the number of the table. E.g., Table 1.1, Table 1.2, Table 1.3, etc. *Do not use a dash.*
- Table numbering should restart for each chapter: Table 1.1, Table 2.1, Table 3.1, Table 3.2, Table 3.3, etc.
- If a table occurs in an appendix, the table number should include the letter assigned to the appendix as well as a number: Table A.1, Table B.1, Table C.1, Table C.2, etc.
- Every table must have a descriptive title. Titles of tables should appear **above** the table, and there should be 1 blank between the title and the top of the table. Example:

Table 3.1 A List of Shakespeare Plays Assigned by Grade Level

Play	Grade Level
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	9 th grade
<i>King Lear</i>	10 th grade
<i>Julius Caesar</i>	11 th grade
<i>Hamlet</i>	12 th grade

- A table title may not consist of more than one sentence or phrase.
- Table titles should be flush left with the left side of the table and not extend beyond the width of the table.
- Table titles must be in size 12 font. For data and/or text within the tables, you can use sizes 10-12 font (in the same font as all other text in your document).
- Tables must fit within the required margins set out previously in this guide.
- Note: do not include typesetting notations in your document (such as “Insert Table 3.4 here”).

Figures

Placement

Figures can be placed in the same positions as tables. See the [Placement chart](#) under the Tables section for more information.

Figure Requirements

- Figure captions should begin with the word “Figure”, followed by the number of the chapter, a period, and the number of the figure. E.g., Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2, Figure 1.3, etc.
- Figure numbering should restart for each chapter: Figure 1.1, Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2, etc.
- If a figure occurs in an appendix to the document, the figure number should include the letter assigned to the appendix: Figure A.1, Figure B.1, Figure B.2, etc.
- Figure captions should appear **below** figures. There should be 1 blank line in between the figure and its caption.

Example:



Figure 1.1 University of South
Carolina Graduate School Logo

- Captions should be flush left with the left side of the figure and not extend beyond the width of the figure.
- Figures must fit within the required margins stated earlier in this guide.
- Do not include typesetting notations in your document (such as “Insert Figure 1.2 here”).
- Figure titles and numbers must be in size 12 font (in the same font as all other text in your document).

Endnotes and Footnotes

You may use either endnotes or footnotes throughout your document, *but not both*. If you decide to use endnotes or footnotes, you should use your word processing software's automatic function for doing so. *Do not insert endnotes or footnotes manually.*

Endnotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placed at end of chapter or end of document.• Must be consecutively numbered throughout the document.
Footnotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placed at bottom or in footer of same page where reference is made.• Footnote numbering may be <i>either</i> consecutive throughout the document or restart with each chapter. Either is acceptable.

Please refer to a style manual appropriate to your department or discipline for answers to specific style questions not addressed in this guide, such as whether to single-space or double-space your endnotes and footnotes. The Graduate School does not have requirements for the size of your font, nor whether to put endnotes/footnotes into single space or double space. Those choices will depend on what your approved style manual dictates (e.g., MLA, APA, etc.)

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

Order of Major Sections

Portion	Major Section	Required vs. Optional	Page Number Style
Front Matter	Title page	REQUIRED	No page number displayed; still “counts” in pagination sequence
	Copyright page	<i>Optional</i>	Lowercase Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv, v, etc.)
	Dedication	<i>Optional</i>	
	Acknowledgments	<i>Optional</i>	
	Abstract	REQUIRED	
	Preface	<i>Optional</i>	
	Table of Contents	REQUIRED	
	List of Tables	REQUIRED if there are 4 or more tables	
	List of Figures	REQUIRED if there are 4 or more figures	
	List of Symbols	<i>Optional</i>	
List of Abbreviations	<i>Optional</i>		
Body of Document	Introduction or Forward	<i>Optional</i>	Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.)
	Chapters	REQUIRED	
	Bibliography (or References, Works Cited, etc.)	REQUIRED	
	Appendix or Appendices	<i>Optional</i>	

Title Page

Your ETD must have a title page. All the content on the title page must be centered on the page, both vertically and horizontally. Do not use any bold on the title page. Also, do not include a page number on the title page; however, you must “count” the title page in your pagination sequence. You must include the following information in this order:

Title

The title of your thesis/dissertation must be the first line of text. If your title is more than one line, single-space the entire title. The title on your title page must be exactly the same as the title in your ETD Administrator account online.

“By”

Directly below the title should be a blank line. On the next line, type the word “by” and insert another blank line below.

Your Name

Next, your name should be on a line by itself. Your name must match across several university platforms so that your document can be attributed to you. This means your name must appear exactly the same across these platforms:

1. Self-Service Carolina
2. University records
3. ETD Administrator account
4. Title page

If, for any reason, you need to change your name, you can submit a [change of name form](#) from the Registrar. Please contact the Graduate School if you have any questions or concerns about your name.

Blank Line

Insert a blank line after your name.

Previous Degrees

Next, you will insert the degree(s) you have previously earned. Write the name of the degree on one line, then the university/institution and graduation year on the next line. The entire entry should be single spaced, but you must double space in between degrees. Example:

Bachelor of Arts
University of Georgia, 2008

Master of Arts
University of South Carolina, 2011

Include each bachelor and higher degree you have previously earned (double-space between degrees), listed in chronological order by date received. Do not include the major with the degree(s), and do not abbreviate the degree(s).

If one of your past degrees was a dual degree, list each degree separately; do not group them into one entry.

Solid Line

Next, insert a solid, horizontal, black line. The line distance should be about half the width of the title page centered. Example:

Current Degree Information

The next group of information should focus on the degree for which you are writing the thesis or dissertation. You must use the following language (double spaced):

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of [insert degree here] in

[insert your major here]

[insert the name of your college (not department)]

University of South Carolina

[year of graduation]

Accepted by:

[your major professor's/thesis director's name], [either Major Professor OR Director of Thesis]

[committee member's/reader's name], [either Committee Member OR Reader]

[committee member's/reader's name], [Committee Member OR Reader]

[committee member's/reader's name], [Committee Member OR Reader]

Ann Vail, Dean of the Graduate School

See the Graduate School website’s [Degree Programs page](#) for information on your degree, college, major, etc. You must use the official language for your degree, and you must spell out the full name of the degree—for example, “Doctor of Philosophy”, not “Ph.D.”

Do not include titles or degrees for your professors’ names (such as “Dr.,” “Prof.,” or “Ph.D.”) or any name on the title page, including your own.

Which Type of ETD	Terms to Use
Master’s Thesis	Director of Thesis Reader
Doctoral Dissertation	Major Professor Committee Member

If you have more than one major professor or more than one director of thesis, simply use the title multiple times. Example:

John E. Smith, Major Professor

Jane F. Doe, Major Professor

William Jones, Committee Member

Lana Douglass, Committee Member

Please review the following pages for sample thesis and sample dissertation title pages.

Sample Master's Thesis Title Page

TITLE OF THESIS

By

Paul Douglas Smith

Bachelor of Science
University of South Carolina, 2021

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of Master of Science in

Mechanical Engineering

Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing

University of South Carolina

2025

Accepted by:

John L. Doe, Director of Thesis

Sara P. Smith, Reader

Ann Vail, Dean of the Graduate School



Sample Doctoral Dissertation Title Page

TITLE OF DISSERTATION: SINGLE SPACE THE
TITLE IF IT IS LONGER THAN ONE LINE

By

Jane Elizabeth Doe

Bachelor of Arts
College of Charleston, 2009

Master of Arts
University of South Carolina, 2015

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of Doctor of Education in

Educational Practice and Innovation

College of Education

University of South Carolina

2025

Accepted by:

Barbra Streisand, Major Professor

Serena Williams, Committee Member

Roger Federer, Committee Member

Simone Biles, Committee Member

Ann Vail, Dean of the Graduate School

Copyright Page

Although you are not required to do so, the Graduate School recommends that you include a copyright notice with your document. According to U.S. law, your work is protected from the moment it is created in a tangible fixed form (including in an electronic form); you do not have to publish the work, register the work, or pay any fee in order to have copyright protection. Therefore, you may include a copyright notice with your thesis/dissertation even if you have not registered it with the U.S. Copyright Office.

However, there are certain benefits to registration. For more information, visit the [U.S. Copyright Office online](#) or review [this guide's submission instructions](#). If you decide to register, you may opt to have ProQuest/UMI file for copyright registration on your behalf (for a fee) during the electronic submission process, or you may personally register with the U.S. Copyright Office.

If you decide to include a copyright page, it must be in the following format:

1. Approximately 2" from the bottom of the page, include the following language:

© Copyright by [insert your name], [year of graduation]
All Rights Reserved.

This two-line statement should be single-spaced and horizontally centered on the page. There should be no text or content on the page besides this statement.

2. When inserting your name, type it exactly as it appears on the title page. This page should be immediately after the title page.
3. The copyright page should contain the lowercase Roman numeral "ii" in the center of the page, 0.5" from the bottom of the page.
4. If, instead of including an "All Rights Reserved" notice, you would like to release your thesis/dissertation under some less-restrictive type of license, such as a Creative Commons license, you should indicate as much on this page. The format of this page will remain the same, but the language will differ depending on the license you choose.

Dedication and Acknowledgments

You are not required to include either a dedication or any acknowledgements, but if you decide to include either, each must follow these guidelines:

1. For the dedication, make "Dedication" your major heading, placed at the top of the page with a 2" top margin. It should be followed by a blank line.
2. For the acknowledgements, make "Acknowledgements" your major heading, placed at the top of the page with a 2" top margin. It should be followed by a blank line.

3. Next, include the body of your dedication or acknowledgements, double spaced. It should be fully- or left-justified, depending on the alignment you choose for the body of your document.
4. If you included a copyright page, the page number on the dedication page should be lower-case Roman numeral “iii”, centered at 0.5” from the bottom of the page. If you did not include a copyright page, the page number should be “ii”. The acknowledgements page should follow the same sequence.

NOTE: You may not combine these two items into one page. The dedication and the acknowledgements are two separate items and must be on separate pages. They are grouped here only because the formatting requirements are identical for both pages.

Abstract

You are **required** to include an abstract and must follow these guidelines:

1. The word “Abstract” should be centered at the top of the page as a heading, followed by a blank line. Remember, all pages with headings must have a 2” top margin, while other pages have only a 1” top margin. Thus, if your abstract continues beyond a single page, the first page will have a 2” top margin, while the remaining pages will have a 1” top margin.
2. Next, include the body of your abstract, double-spaced. The body of your abstract may be left- or fully-justified. Generally, abstracts are approximately 350 words; however, abstract requirements vary among disciplines. Follow the guidance of your committee and approved style manual for abstract length, content, and structure. *Remember that if your abstract is 10+ pages long, then it is not longer an abstract; it is a chapter.*
3. Regarding pagination, the abstract page should follow in the same lowercase Roman numeral sequence as the other front matter. For example, if you included a copyright page, a dedication page, and an acknowledgements page, then “v” should be the page number for your abstract.

Preface

A preface is optional, but if you include one, you must follow these requirements:

1. “Preface” should be centered at the top of the page, followed by a blank line. The top margin on the first page must be 2 inches.
2. Double-space the body of the preface, either left- or fully-justified.
3. The pagination should follow the same lowercase Roman numeral sequence as the previous pages in your document.

Table of Contents

You are **required** to have a table of contents. Here are the guidelines you must follow:

1. The heading “Table of Contents” is to be placed at the top of the page, centered, followed by a blank line. The first page of the table of contents should have a 2” top margin. If your table of contents is more than one page, only include the heading on the first page; the remaining pages should have 1” top margins with no heading.
2. The following items must be listed in your table of contents (if included in your document):
 - Dedication
 - Acknowledgements
 - Abstract
 - Preface
 - List of Tables
 - List of Figures
 - List of Symbols
 - List of Abbreviations
 - Each chapter, including the chapter number and descriptive title
 - Bibliography/references
 - Each appendix, including the appendix letter and descriptive title
 - Endnotes (if applicable)
3. Do not include the title page, the copyright page, or the table of contents page(s) in your table of contents.
4. When listing chapter headings and subheadings, do not include more than one level of subdivision within a chapter; you may list chapter titles only, or chapter titles and the next level of headings, but none below that. The descriptive chapter headings and subheadings within the table of contents should match exactly the language used within the body of your thesis/dissertation itself.
5. The title of each entry listed in the table of contents should be justified to the left of the page, along the left margin. However, subheadings below a chapter heading need to be indented.
6. Page numbers in the table of contents should be along the right margin of the page (remember, the side margins are 1.25” throughout the document). Include a leader (a line of dots) in the space between the entry name and the corresponding page number. You can visit [Microsoft’s support site](#) for instructions on creating leaders manually. Do not simply insert a line of periods with the page number at the end, because that method will not result in all of the page numbers being properly aligned on the margin.

7. Double-space between each entry. If an entry takes up more than one line, split the entry about three-fourths of the way across the page, and place the remaining text on the next line, single-spaced. Only include a leader from the last line. Here is an example: The table of contents page(s) should include a page number in lowercase Roman numerals, in the same sequence as the rest of the front matter.

Sample Table of Contents with Only Chapter Titles – NO Subheadings

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Sample Table of Contents with Subheadings

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Appendix B: First Folio Display Dates79

List of Tables

List of Figures

If you have fewer than four tables or four figures in your document, then you do not need to list them. If you have four or more, however, then you are required to have a list of tables and/or list of figures.

Note that the list of tables and the list of figures are two separate sections, and *they cannot be combined*. If you include a list of tables and list of figures, they must be on separate pages.

Here are the requirements, which apply to both the list of figures and list of tables:

1. The phrase “List of Tables” must be at the top of the page, followed by a blank line. Use “List of Figures” for the list of figures.
2. The number and title of each table/figure should be aligned on the left margin of the page. The descriptive title/caption must be included, not just the number.
3. Page numbers in the list should be right-justified. Include a leader between the title of the table/figure and the corresponding page number. If a title is more than one line, single- space the entry, and only include a leader from the last line of the title.
4. Double-space between each entry. If an entry takes up more than one line, split the entry about three-fourths of the way across the page, and place the remaining text on the next line, single-spaced. Only include a leader from the last line.
5. The descriptive titles of tables/figures in the list should match exactly the language used within the body of your thesis/dissertation itself.
6. The page(s) containing the list should include a page number in lowercase Roman numerals, in the same sequence as the rest of the front matter.

Sample List of Tables

LIST OF TABLES	
Table 1.1 Example of a table title	12
Table 2.1 Here is a table title that is longer than one line: Format it the same way you format entries in the table of contents that are longer than one line	30

List of Symbols

A list of symbols is not required, but if you choose to include one, follow these guidelines:

1. Type “List of Symbols” at the top of the page, then insert a blank line.
2. All the symbols should be left-justified along the left margin.
3. After typing the symbol, tab over once, then type the definition or description of the symbol. The beginning of each definition/description should be aligned on the page.
4. Double-space between entries. If a definition/description takes up more than one line, single-space for that entry, and make sure that each line of text is consistently left-aligned.
5. Include the page number in the same lowercase Roman numeral sequence as the other front matter.

Sample List of Symbols

LIST OF SYMBOLS	
<i>J</i>	Resultant total angular momentum quantum number, excluding nuclear spins.
<i>N</i>	Rotational angular momentum quantum number, excluding electron and nuclear spins, in the case where electron spin is present.
<i>K</i>	Projection of <i>J</i> (or <i>N</i>) on the symmetry axis in the limiting prolate or oblate symmetric top.

List of Abbreviations

Including a list of abbreviations is optional. The following requirements must be followed if you decide to include a list of abbreviations:

1. “List of Abbreviations” is to be placed at the top of the page, followed by a blank line.
2. List the abbreviations alphabetically.
3. The abbreviations should be left-justified along the left margin.

4. The definitions of the abbreviations should be right-justified along the right margin. Include a leader between the abbreviation and its definition. In rare instances, a definition may be more than one line; if this occurs, single-space the entry, and right-justify all lines of text.
5. Double-space between entries.
6. Number this page in the same sequence as the other front matter, in lowercase Roman numerals.

Sample List of Abbreviations

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
ABS	Anti-lock Braking System
DOHC.....	Double Overhead Camshaft
HCCI	Homogeneous Charge Compression Ignition
SOHC	Single Overhead Camshaft
VTEC	Variable Valve Timing and Lift Electronic Control

Chapters

Here are requirements you must fulfill for your chapters:

1. From this point forward, number all remaining pages (including the bibliography and appendices) with Arabic numerals, starting at “1” on the first page of your introduction or first chapter.
2. Every chapter title must begin with the word “Chapter,” then have the number designation, then the descriptive title (e.g., “Chapter 1: Introduction” or “Chapter 2: Literature Review”).
3. All chapter numbers must either be spelled out or written in Arabic numerals, but you *must be consistent* (“Chapter One” or “Chapter 1”). You *cannot* use Roman numerals for chapter numbers. Choose one style and use it for all chapter titles.
4. Begin each new chapter with the chapter title at the top of a new page with a 2” top margin. The remaining pages of the chapter will have 1” top margins.

5. The text of the main body may be either left-justified or fully-justified. Whichever you choose, you must use it consistently throughout the entire document, including with front matter (Dedication, Abstract, etc.).
6. Each chapter title must be an entry in the table of contents.
7. Each new chapter must begin on a new page. Subsections within chapters should not start on a new page unless there is no room on the preceding page (remember to avoid widows/orphans).

Bibliography

You are required to have a bibliography at the end of your document.

If you are using manuscript style and have references at the end of your chapters, you still need to include a full, complete bibliography at the end of your document. Do not insert references at the end of every single chapter. For manuscript style, only insert references at the end of manuscript chapters. See the Manuscript Style's section on [References/Bibliography and Citation Styles](#) for more information on the bibliography in manuscript style.

Here are the requirements for your bibliography:

1. Consult your approved style manual (e.g., APA, MLA, etc.) for specifics on how to structure your reference entries. Use the style manual's requirements consistently.
2. Margins must still adhere to requirements stated previously in this guide.
3. Page numbers will continue to be in order and in Arabic numerals, just like the preceding pages of the body of your document.
4. Select a major heading appropriate to your discipline and style manual (e.g., "Works Cited" for MLA, etc.). Place it at the top of the page, using a 2" top margin.
5. Refer to your style manual to determine whether to single or double space your entries.
6. Avoid widows/orphans even in the bibliography.

Appendix and Appendices

Appendices are optional. The purpose of an appendix is to include additional information that does not have an appropriate place in a chapter. Examples of appendix materials include surveys, computer programs, or formulas.

1. Include all appendices after the references section. No appendix should appear directly after a chapter, even if that appendix only pertains to that chapter.



2. Each appendix must have a letter designation and a descriptive title (e.g, “Appendix A: Supplementary Tables” or “Appendix B: Permission to Reprint”). Each appendix title is considered a major heading and must be formatted just like your other major headings.
3. The appendix title must be at the top of the first page with a 2” top margin. All subsequent pages of the appendix must have 1” top margins.
4. Each appendix must be listed in the table of contents, and all page numbers must be in Arabic numerals.
5. If you have figures or tables in an appendix, then the figure or table numbers must match the appendix’s letter. Example: “Figure A.1” for a figure in Appendix A; “Figure B.1” for a figure in Appendix B.
6. Remember that each appendix is a separate major section—just as each chapter is a separate major section. Do not lump all of your appendices into an “appendices section.” [Visit the Graduate School’s website](#) to see samples or review the [Table of Contents section](#) of this guide to view how appendices should be listed in a table of contents.

Supplemental Files

If you have supporting files or documents to include with your dissertation, such as sound clips or data sets, that will not “fit” into the traditional PDF format of your dissertation, then you can submit this information as “supplementary files” in ProQuest.

These files are not subject to the Graduate School’s formatting requirements.

These files will accompany your ETD, but they will not be in the PDF. If you order a hard copy, you will receive a copy of these files as a CD in the back pocket of your book.

You can read more about this option at [ProQuest’s website](#).

MANUSCRIPT STYLE: USING PUBLISHED MATERIAL

Overview

Some departments may allow you to include, as chapters, articles that have been or will be submitted to scholarly journals. This style is also referred to as “manuscript style,” and has been approved by the Graduate School for use by all departments. However, you must have the approval of your department to use the manuscript style for chapters in your document.

The format requirements explained previously also apply to manuscript chapters, regardless of how the manuscript was previously formatted for submission to a publisher. You are not required to change the content of your manuscripts that have been published or prepared for publication, but you are required to change the presentation of that content so that it meets the Graduate School’s format requirements. This section of the format guide details the requirements for using manuscript style. *These requirements apply only to manuscript chapters, in addition to the requirements described in the previous sections of this format guide.*

Authorship

You must be either the sole author or the first co-author of each manuscript submitted as a manuscript chapter.

Manuscript with Multiple Authors

It is acceptable to submit a manuscript that you co-authored with others, but you must be the first/primary author. If you are not listed as the first or primary author, then you advisor must submit a letter to the Graduate School confirming that you are the primary author of all manuscripts you have included in your dissertation. The letter must also state that your dissertation contains only your own original work.

Co-First Authors of Manuscript

If you and a fellow graduate student are *both co-first authors* on a manuscript and wish to use it in your dissertations, then you must seek approval from both of your committees and from the Graduate School. You will need to submit a memo signed by your major professors to the Graduate School confirming that you are both co-first authors of the manuscript and that these manuscripts are indeed your original work. All requests are subject to the Graduate School’s approval.

References/Bibliography and Citation Style

Bibliography Requirements

You have the option to put references at the end of each manuscript chapter; however, you are required to have a complete bibliography at the end of your document regardless of whether you choose to put the references at the end of each chapter.

Citation Style

If you are using a previously published manuscript that used a different citation style from the style approved by your committee for your dissertation, then you are welcome to keep the manuscript chapter in its original citation style; you do not have to change the citation style to match the rest of the document. *This parameter only applies to manuscripts that have been submitted for publication or previously published.* You are still required to include a full bibliography at the end of the document, and the full bibliography must be in the approved citation style for the document, not the manuscript.

Copyright Release

You must include evidence that you have received permission to use articles which have been published or accepted for publication. It is your responsibility to secure copyright releases prior to submitting your document to the Graduate School. There is no specific form the evidence must take; as long as it is clear that you have permission to re-use the content, that will be sufficient.

Common types of permission include:

- a letter or email from the publisher,
- a screenshot of the publisher's website explaining your rights as an author, or
- a printout from the Copyright Clearance Center.

*Your document will **not** be accepted as a final submission until all necessary copyright releases have been received by the Graduate School.*

The evidence of permission to reprint should be included within the dissertation itself, not submitted separately. Insert the evidence as an appendix titled "Appendix A: Permission to Reprint" or something similar.

Overall Document Structure

The same requirements discussed previously for required vs. optional sections also apply to manuscript ETDs. However, there are some additional requirements for manuscript ETDs.

You must include:

- Abstract that describes the dissertation as a whole;
- Introduction or introductory chapter that details the structure of the document;
- Conclusion or concluding chapter that ties together the major results.

Unavoidably, these requirements will duplicate some of the introductory and concluding material in each chapter/article. With these elements, the dissertation will be presented as a unified product, rather than simply a collection of related by separate manuscripts.



Chapters

As stated, manuscript style is for material that is intended for publication. If you have multiple manuscripts in your document, *do not* combine all manuscripts into one chapter. Each manuscript or article must be a separate chapter.

Tables and Figures

Tables and figures in manuscript chapters must also adhere to the Graduate School's formatting requirements. Do not use the same table/figure numbers that you used in preparation for submission to a publisher. Instead, follow the criteria stated in the [Tables](#) and [Figures](#) sections of this guide for numbering tables and figures and for creating captions and titles.

Cover Page

You must include the publication information pertaining to this manuscript, and this information should only be in a footnote. Do not list the teaching history or employment of each author. Please use one of the sample footnotes on the sample page. If you want to include additional information about the authors, then you can add that information to a preface, introduction, or appendix.

Cover Page Contents

What to include on each cover page:

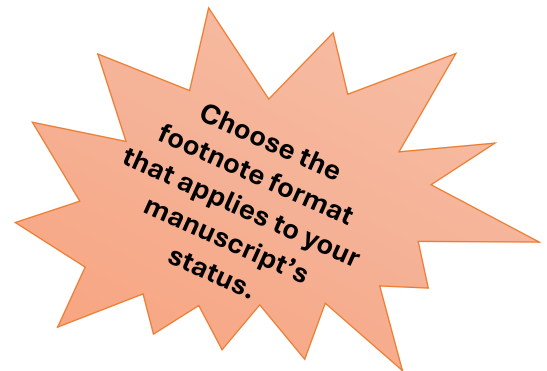
- Chapter number (e.g. "Chapter 3")
- Manuscript title
- Footnote with publishing information:
 - Names of all authors in journal-submitted order
 - Name of the journal/publication
 - Volume number and page numbers (if known)
 - Date of publication (if known)
 - Article status (e.g., "To be submitted" or "Reprinted with permission from the publisher").

See the following page for a sample manuscript chapter cover page. There are four sample footnotes, each showing you the language that you need to include based on whether your article has been published, accepted for publication, submitted, or will be submitted. Place an appropriate footnote on your cover page, and follow the citation format in your chosen style manual.

Sample Manuscript Style Cover Page

CHAPTER 3:

TITLE OF MANUSCRIPT: INSERT THE TITLE HERE¹



¹ Name, Full Student, Doe, Jane , et. al. To be submitted.

¹ Name, Full Student and Jane Doe. Submitted to *Psychology Today*, 10/13/2022.

¹ Name, F.S. and J. Doe, 2022. *Psychology Today*. 1045:562-603. Reprinted here with permission of the publisher.

¹ Name, F.S. and J. Doe, 2022. *Psychology Today*. 1045:562-603. Reprinted here with permission of the publisher, 10/13/2022.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Graduate School Website

The Graduate School's website has two pages with detailed information about thesis and dissertation requirements, deadlines, workshops, samples, videos, and more.

The [Thesis & Dissertation page](#) has general information about ETDs, including a link to ProQuest's ETD Administrator site. You can view samples, watch videos, register for workshops, learn about the submission process, and even download a copy of this guide from this page.

The [Submission Instructions page](#) has more information about how to submit your document and copies of the Microsoft Word and LaTeX templates.

University Writing Center

If you need some help with grammar, writing, revising, or even proofreading your document, then the Writing Center is a great resource. They offer appointments both in-person and online. You can visit the [Writing Center website](#) to learn more.

University Registrar

[The Registrar's Office](#) provides many forms you may need, such as the G-TSF and G-DSF forms and the Change of Name Form.

ProQuest's ETD Administrator Help

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