

The School of Graduate Studies

Handbook and Style Guide for Dissertations and Theses

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Chapter 1: University Expectations for Preparing a Dissertation or Thesis

Introduction

The School of Graduate Studies publishes the *Handbook and Style Guide for Dissertations and Theses (Handbook)* in order to assist the graduate student in the preparation of a doctoral dissertation or master's thesis. To provide minimum guidelines common to all disciplines, this *Handbook* includes specific format requirements for the School of Graduate Studies. Information in the *Handbook* should also be helpful to graduate coordinators, faculty, advisors, committee chairpersons, and committee members for understanding standards and requirements for writing dissertations and theses. The School of Graduate Studies expects that all dissertations and theses will consist of research that is educationally significant and methodologically sound. At Morgan State University, dissertations are required for the award of all doctoral degrees. Currently, most candidates for Master of Arts degrees must prepare theses. Theses may also be required of candidates seeking Master of Science degrees, as well as candidates from a number of specialized Master's degrees. Please consult the current *School of Graduate Studies Catalog* and meet with the program graduate advisor to determine whether a program requires a thesis.

Standards for the Dissertation

The preparation of a dissertation functions primarily as a way to help the doctoral student understand research methodology and to acquire the scholarly abilities to advance knowledge and understanding within an academic discipline. Chief among the research skills is the ability to communicate orally and in writing with colleagues and others about one's chosen subject matter. At Morgan, all candidates for doctoral degrees (PhD, DEng, DrPH, and EdD) are required to conduct original research and prepare and defend a dissertation. Students are encouraged to review dissertation or other research requirements with faculty advisors and the graduate coordinators of respective degree programs. All doctoral dissertations must meet several important standards. For a dissertation to be accepted by the School of Graduate Studies, it must:

- Demonstrate thorough knowledge of prior scholarship, including qualitative or quantitative research relating to the dissertation topic;
- Reveal ability to analyze, critique, interpret, and integrate information from prior scholarship into hypotheses or research questions sufficient to form the basis of a dissertation;
- Reflect use of appropriate research methodology, including current data collection techniques and appropriate data analysis tools, including the use of proper statistical applications and other software applications;

- Display findings in a sequential and logical manner, and when needed, through the use of appropriate tables, graphs, or other methods of presenting quantitative or qualitative data;
- Include a coherent discussion of the relationships among the prior scholarship, the hypotheses or research question(s), the findings and data, and the meaning of the results; and
- Reflect a mastery of grammar, punctuation, sentence construction, paragraph formation, and style consistent with requirements outlined and approved in this *Handbook*.

The School of Graduate Studies reserves the right not to accept dissertations that fail to meet these standards. The general expectation is that the dissertation committee provides assurance that these standards are met and indicates so with the signatures of the members being published in the dissertation.

Standards for the Thesis

The purpose of the thesis is to help the master's student acquire the research, methodological, and communication skills necessary for discussing and potentially contributing to knowledge and understanding within academic disciplines.

In order to be accepted by the School of Graduate Studies, the thesis must: ·

Demonstrate knowledge of prior scholarship relating to the thesis topic;

- Reveal ability to analyze, critique, and integrate information into hypotheses or research questions sufficient to form the basis for a thesis;
- Reflect use of appropriate research methodology that will result in reliable findings;
- Present findings in a manner appropriate for displaying quantitative or qualitative data;
- Include a coherent discussion of findings and the meaning of the results; and
- Reflect a mastery of grammar, punctuation, sentence construction, paragraph

formation, citations, and style consistent with published research in an academic discipline.

The School of Graduate Studies reserves the right not to accept theses that fail to meet these standards. The general expectation is that the thesis committee provides assurance that these standards are met and indicates so with the signatures of the members being published in the thesis.

Author of the Dissertation or Thesis

The student is the author of the doctoral dissertation or master's thesis and, therefore, is ultimately responsible for ensuring that its production reflects the highest professional quality in content, style, and grammatical exactness. In addition to this, the preparation, as well as the evaluation, of dissertations and theses represents a joint enterprise involving the graduate student, the dissertation or thesis chairperson, other members of the dissertation or thesis committee, and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. All dissertations and theses are to be written in English.

Graduate Students' Responsibilities

Although one should expect assistance from the committee chair and committee members, the student is held solely responsible for meeting the standards, citation style, format, and overall quality expected of dissertations and theses. Responsibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Choosing a dissertation or thesis topic that represents one's own original research;
- Consulting regularly with committee chairpersons and committee members to review progress on the development of chapters in the dissertation or thesis;
- Developing and organizing the subject matter to reflect with clarity the content and analysis of arguments and any proposed hypotheses;
- Assuring that the quality of data, of the evidence, and of the logical reasoning presented is consistent with theories, principles, and methodologies of the discipline;
- Assuring that the format, composition, text, layout, and appearance of illustrations and bibliography are of the highest professional quality;
- Certifying the accuracy of references and citations;
- Securing copyrights for the dissertation or thesis through UMI/ProQuest during

the submission process;

- Securing appropriate permission to reproduce copyrighted material in the thesis or dissertation; and
- Meeting all deadlines set by the School of Graduate Studies for the submission of dissertations and theses.

Committee Chairpersons' and Committee Members' Responsibilities The committee chair, in particular, and the other committee members in general are responsible for guiding and advising the student in researching scholarly literature, using appropriate research methodologies, analyzing data, and reporting findings for the

dissertation or thesis. The committee chairperson and committee members are expected to provide a fair and ongoing evaluation of written drafts according to the standards of the discipline and the standards necessary to satisfy degree requirements. The responsibilities of the committee chairs and committee members include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Reviewing the candidate's transcript to verify the status of eligibility to write the dissertation or thesis;
- Approving topic(s) and methodology for the dissertation or thesis;
- Reading and offering constructive criticism on drafts of the dissertation or thesis related to the quality of data and evidence, reasoning, editorial and linguistic quality, and references and citations;
- Guiding and advising the candidate's work in reference to its organization and content;
- Evaluating the dissertation or thesis based on the requirements of the degree for which one is a candidate;
- Helping prepare the manuscript for scholarly publication;
- Reviewing the research and the manuscript for concerns related to academic integrity and providing evidence that such a review has occurred;
- Assisting the candidate in meeting the deadlines as established by the School of

Graduate Studies for the oral defense and in submitting the dissertation or thesis to the School of Graduate Studies.

In its evaluation of the dissertation or thesis, the committee may assign the following assessments:

- *Passed* (no corrections needed).
- *Conditionally Passed* (minor adjustments are needed in substance and/or format).
- *Deferred* (major adjustments are needed in substance and/or format).
- *Failed* (needed adjustments are too extensive, or the candidate failed to defend satisfactorily).

School of Graduate Studies' Responsibilities

The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies is responsible for certifying that the standards for the preparation of dissertations or theses have been met. Although the review of dissertations and theses by the Dean or the Dean's designee centers primarily on conformity to the elements of style as outlined in this *Handbook*, the Dean is also concerned with the quality of the content and analysis reflected in the dissertation or

thesis. Only after certification by the Dean are dissertations or theses accepted. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (or the Dean's designee) is responsible for:

- Publishing dissertation and thesis requirements in consultation with the College and School Deans, department chairpersons, and graduate coordinators;
- Advising graduate students, committee chairs, and other committee members about the standards for preparation of the dissertation or thesis;
- Preparing an annual calendar listing the dates and deadlines by which dissertations and theses must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and the dates and deadlines by which the results of oral defenses of dissertations must be reported to the School of Graduate Studies;
- Reviewing each dissertation or thesis to ensure that it has been prepared in conformity with the requirements prescribed in this *Handbook*; and
- Certifying or denying that the dissertation or thesis has met the necessary standards, including standards related to academic integrity.

- Broadly speaking, the dissertation or thesis should be understood as a common enterprise reflecting the academic rigor of the programs requiring them, the mastery and expertise achieved by the author of the work, and the academic and research integrity of the University. The quality of a university can be judged harshly by its critics, and the first place these critics look is the production of research and the success of its graduates. Morgan State University is classified as an “R3: Doctoral Universities—Moderate research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation, and this classification rests, in part, upon the successful graduation of doctoral students in research fields.

The dissertations and theses prepared by Morgan students must reflect the highest standards of academic preparation and integrity. A bound copy with the original signatures of the committee will be placed in the University library in a collection of published dissertations and theses. This copy must be identical to the copy available through the UMI/ProQuest service that provides copyright and publishing services for almost all the graduate schools in the country and many throughout the world. Through contemporary Web-based technology, the dissertations and theses are delivered to UMI/ProQuest as Portable Document Files, or PDFs. This process is described later in the *Handbook*. However, there is an important point here, that the manuscript is essentially a published work, in most cases a publication of original research findings and, in others, a publication of original critical analysis. Several have been creative works, including screenplays and parts of novels. As books, the published dissertations and theses must conform to specific stylistic standards set by Morgan State University.

Therefore, when preparing these publishable works, the author must keep in mind that the quality must be durable and that the style and formatting must be impeccable.

Sometimes, there appear to be conflicts between the chosen style manual and the requirements of this *Handbook*. Upon careful review, one will realize that the manuals of style all recognize that the dissertations and theses prepared using the style dictated by the profession must also conform to the requirements of the graduate schools to which they will be submitted. Furthermore, these manuals of style guide the style and formatting required of journal submissions—a consideration that is one step prior to publication. In fact, many requirements are designed to ease the effort required for copy review and preparation (copy-editing) for the journal publication. Upon publication, the final article appears quite different from the submitted manuscript. All journals publish in single-space print, and all journals place figures and tables in the text rather than at the end. Given that the finished dissertation or thesis will be printed from the final PDF in book form, the guiding stipulations of this *Handbook* are designed to help the author provide a “camera-ready” copy that is easy to read. For this reason, footnotes must be placed at the bottom of each page—not at the end of chapters. Tables and figures must also appear in the text rather than at the end of the manuscript. Typographical marks like em-dashes and en-dashes must be used. These features are easily accomplished with contemporary word processing programs. Items like double spacing are retained because the standard paper size (8.5 by 11 inches) is much larger than traditional books,

and reading in this format is easier.

Registering the Copyright

The copyrighting of the student's work occurs in a technical sense when one first puts words into the manuscript (whether on paper or in digital form). The registration of a copyright provides the author and the publisher with certain rights to pursue those who violate the copyright. Morgan State University now requires that every candidate register the copyright through UMI/ProQuest in order to protect the student, the advisors, and the University.

Chapter 2: University Expectations for Academic Conduct and Ethical Research

The School of Graduate Studies at Morgan promotes responsible and ethical research among graduate students. Students are cautioned to avoid practices that threaten the integrity of a student's research, including, but not limited to, falsification or fabrication of data, violations of privacy and confidentiality provisions, conflicts of interest, cheating, plagiarism, and copyright infringements. Unethical research threatens the integrity of academic and scientific enterprise and will subject the student to severe penalties.

Federal Policy on Research Misconduct

Research for dissertations and theses is often supported by funds from federal agencies. Thus, research misconduct may subject graduate students whose research is supported (entirely or in part) by federal funds to federal sanctions. Federal policy defines research misconduct as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. According to federal policy, fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results, such that the research is not accurately represented in the

research record. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion. Federal sanctions for research misconduct include, but are not limited to, letters of reprimand, the imposition of special certification or assurance requirements, suspension or termination of an active award, or suspension and debarment in accordance with applicable government-wide rules. In the event of suspension or debarment, the information is made publicly available through the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-procurement Programs maintained by the U. S. General Services Administration (*Federal Register*, December 6, 2000: Vol.65/No.235). The GSA now maintains a website, the *Excluded Parties List System* (EPLS; <https://www.epls.gov/>), that provides a current listing of all who have been suspended or debarred from federal contracts. The complete code is reproduced in Appendix A.

Definitions and Penalties of Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

The following passages are from the *School of Graduate Studies Catalog, Regulations and Procedures*; Academic Regulations; Section V. Responsible Academic Conduct and Ethical Research:

V.3. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is among the most egregious offenses a student can commit because it interferes with the University's primary mission of educating and evaluating students.

Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, abuse of academic/library materials, stealing, and lying, in the preparation of testing, class assignments, or

dissertations and theses is no less egregious. Academic dishonesty, whether in the classroom or in the preparation of the dissertation or thesis, will not be tolerated by the School of Graduate Studies. In particular, any graduate student found to have engaged in plagiarism in the writing and preparation of coursework, research papers, and/or in the preparation of a dissertation or thesis shall be subject to the full range of penalties at the disposal of the School of Graduate Studies.

Plagiarism is submitting, either orally or in writing, the words, ideas, drawings, or other works of another person as one's own without appropriate citation in order to receive credit for having completed an academic assignment or exercise.

Examples: Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Submitting material or work for evaluation, in whole or in part, which has been prepared by another student, by an author of a published article or textbook, or by persons producing papers for profit;

- Using a direct quote from another student's papers or from an author of a publication without including the appropriate citation;
- Paraphrasing or summarizing another's work without including the appropriate citation; and,
- Using information stored electronically (e.g., submission of papers and or information found on computer disks, the Internet, etc.) without including appropriate citation and/or acknowledging the source.

V.4. Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

Any graduate student at Morgan State University who is found to have engaged in academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, in the preparation of written assignments, a dissertation or thesis, may be subjected to suspension, expulsion, and/or revocation of a previously awarded degree. Such sanctions may be imposed even though the accused graduate student may never have received a lesser penalty or penalties for previous academic dishonesty.

Suspension from the University. Suspension can be imposed for a specified period, not to exceed two years.

Expulsion from the University. Expulsion is a permanent separation from the University.

Revocation. When acts of academic dishonesty are found to invalidate a major piece of work required for a degree so that the validity of the degree or certification is jeopardized, then the sanction may include a recommendation from the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies to the University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs to:

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1. Reject a dissertation, thesis or other work.
2. Revoke a certification or not grant a certification.
3. Revoke a degree.

Document Review

The School of Graduate Studies currently utilizes a service called "Urkund" to process manuscripts for possible academic integrity and plagiarism transgressions. Also available to the student and the advisor is the service that is incorporated into the Blackboard Online Course Management System. This service is called "SafeAssign." Urkund currently provides the capability of checking the submitted documents against the UMI/ProQuest database, thereby providing a far more robust investigation than the current major checking services. Each dissertation and thesis will be processed through Urkund, and the results will be examined for the extent of inappropriate citation, quotations without attribution, and related matters. No software tool is perfect for this chore, and the results must be reviewed. For instance, the system will identify quotations as matches even if the author has properly cited the work and provided

appropriate indications of the source and presence of quoted materials. The reviewer must distinguish the appropriately attributed work from that which has been inappropriately attributed.

Several dangers persist even with the use of these software services. Some individuals will repeatedly submit their work through SafeAssign until it comes through “clean.” This practice is dishonest and itself violates the principles of academic integrity. The objective of a dissertation or a thesis includes producing original work and presenting reviews and critical analysis as a product of the author’s own writing. Scrubbing the document for copied material with repeated rephrasing in an effort to get the copied material to pass the system is not evidence of original scholarly research. For those who do not grasp the nature of this problem, be assured that the service providers who have designed the plagiarism checkers are working on new algorithms to detect excessive paraphrasing—and even detect the products of this scrubbing technique.

The worst consequence for products of paraphrased work is that at some point, should the author have copied and then rendered the work free of detectable paraphrasing, the author of the original idea may stumble upon the manuscript and recognize that his or her ideas have been appropriated by another person without proper attribution. Authors who find themselves wronged in this manner often bring attention not only to the violator but to the institution that appears to have condoned the misappropriation. A consequence of this could be the third option discussed above of revoking a degree. The best course of action is for the author to submit original work initially, with careful attention to the citation methods required in the discipline most closely associated with the subject and research methods of the work.

Chapter 3: Before Preparing the Manuscript

Follow Specific Program Guidelines

Prior to writing the dissertation or thesis and enrolling in Dissertation Seminar (__ 998) or Thesis Seminar (__ 799), and then, continuously in Dissertation Guidance (__ 997) or Thesis Guidance (__ 797), the candidate must:

- Possess a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher to be in good academic standing in a degree program,
- Have successfully completed all residency requirements for the doctoral program in which one is enrolled and be officially admitted to candidacy (Students pursuing Master’s degrees must have successfully completed a majority of their courses and/or credits required in their degree program),

and

- Have passed all qualifying examinations, including, but not necessarily limited to, comprehensive examinations and language proficiency examinations.

Review Past Copies of Dissertations/Theses

It is helpful to review and examine other dissertations or theses prepared by successful recent graduates in the program in order to gain some basic understanding of the organization and placement of the various components. As requirements may have changed, one should not assume that the format of these copies is appropriate for the planned work. One may research electronic copies of MSU dissertations and theses at UMI/ProQuest's database search engine at <http://proquest.umi.com/login>. This access is direct if one logs in from a computer on campus. For access from a computer not on the campus network, please contact the library for the necessary access codes and directions. Once in the search engine, the searcher can locate all Morgan dissertations and theses by selecting the dissertation database; "school name/code"; and finding Morgan State University in the school listings. See [Figure 1: UMI Advanced Search Function](#).

The screenshot shows the UMI Advanced Search interface. At the top, there are links for 'Tools', 'Search Tips', and 'Recent Searches'. The main search area contains a text input field with 'morgan state university OR (Morgan State University)', a dropdown menu for 'School name/code' with a 'Look up schools' link, and two rows of 'AND' connectors followed by empty text fields. Below these are 'Add a row' and 'Remove a row' links, and 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons. The bottom section includes a 'Database' dropdown set to 'Interdisciplinary - Dissertations & Theses' with a 'Select multiple databases' link, a 'Date range' dropdown set to 'All dates', and a 'Limit results to' checkbox for 'Full text documents only'. A 'More Search Options' link is at the bottom left.

Figure 1: UMI Advanced Search Function

Students are also encouraged to review appropriate publications, including textbooks and refereed journals, in which they could consider publishing a chapter or section of their dissertation or thesis.

Determine the Validity and Authority of Research Taken from the Internet

To ensure that sources are trustworthy, the author must evaluate the validity and authority of research gleaned from the Internet prior to including it as scholarly research. The following website at the University of Maryland Libraries provides helpful criteria for doing this: <http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/evaluate.html>.

Choose the Appropriate Style Manual

Each discipline follows a standard format for its scholarly publications. To verify the

preferred style manual in discipline, consult the program advisor. An author will refer to a style manual in order to learn a system of formatting—whether it involves blocking direct quotations, presenting data, or including electronic source citations. By this time in an academic career, one should be familiar with a professional style manual. **For stylistic matters not precisely addressed in this *Handbook*, refer to the manual that is the current standard in the discipline. Please remember that the formatting requirements of this *Handbook* supersede guidelines in style manuals.** For convenience, Appendix B: Helpful Bibliographies, at the end of this document, includes a bibliography of style manuals and a bibliography for formatting electronic references.

Secure Written Permission for Use of Copyrighted Material

The *Copyright Law of the United States and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code* describes the concept of “Fair Use” that covers most academic and scholarly uses of copyrighted materials. Section 107 of the Copyright Law (quoted below) does not provide much detailed guidance, but it does clearly establish parameters for consideration. For the greatest protection, authors are expected to provide full attribution when using the ideas, words, pictures, or other works of another. When in doubt, the best course of action is to request permission from the holder of the copyright (usually, but not always, the identified author through the author’s publisher).

§ 107 • Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 106 and 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use, the factors to be considered shall include—

- 1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;

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- 2) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- 3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- 4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The fact that a work is unpublished shall not bar a finding of fair use if such a finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.¹

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of resources that can help provide guidance on the issue of securing permission to reproduce the work of another author. Perhaps the very best place to begin is the Morgan Library. Several of the librarians are familiar with these issues and have helped others before. Keep in mind that, though data is not protected by copyright, the manner in which an individual displays that data does have

copyright protection. When reproducing an illustration from another published or unpublished work, the author should ask permission. The most common practice in this circumstance is to grant limited permission. The restriction might be something like “applies only to this dissertation, should the author publish another version of the work, additional permission will be required.” To be sure, the use of even a screenshot of a search engine on a Web page like that of UMI/ProQuest Search Engine should be supported with a request for permission to reprint in a booklet like this *Handbook* (permission has been sought by the way).

Secure Written Permission for Use of Human Subjects

Morgan State University is guided by the ethical principles regarding all research involving humans as subjects as set forth in the report of the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research entitled *Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research* (the Belmont Report). In addition, the requirements set forth in Title 45, Part 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR 46) are upheld. Morgan State University has chosen to require that research covered by its assurance be conducted in accordance with the requirements of 45 CFR 46, regardless of the source of funding or whether there is funding. (Office of Sponsored Programs, “Policies and Procedures for Protection of Human Subjects in Research,” p. 2)

Students using human subjects in surveys, interviews, and/or focus groups require written approval from the Institutional Review Board at the University. Dr. Edet E. Isuk, IRB Administrator, may be contacted by e-mail: edet.isuk@morgan.edu, phone: 443.885.3447, or at his office: Montebello Complex 302-D.

¹Circular 92: **Copyright Law of the United States and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code**, October 2009, p. 19.

Obtain Editorial, Proofreading, or Typing Assistance

If a student employs someone to type a dissertation or thesis, be sure to provide them with this *Handbook* and discuss special disciplinary requirements with them, including specific guidelines from the style guide within the field. The School of Graduate Studies does not recommend individual or corporate editors to its students.

Obtain Electronic Storage Devices

Today, there are multiple means of saving and sharing written work. The committee may use a Blackboard account, Google Docs, Dropbox, or some other form of sharing and editing electronic work. Both Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat have methods of adding comments and recommending changes. Of course, paper still works well with

penciled and inked notes. Whatever form is chosen, be sure to keep multiple copies in different places. Save a copy on a home computer, another on a jump drive, and another as an email attachment.

One of the mistakes authors make when working for the first time with a large document is to use a naming system that does not have sufficiently robust features for marking copies that may be changed several times a day. Devise a naming and tracking protocol—and do not depend upon the time and date stamp of the computer. The time on one computer may be different from that of another, and one may lose the identification of which document is more recent, etc.

Chapter 4: Preparing the Dissertation or Thesis Draft

Basic Requirements

The following discussion is meant to be a guide to the basic formatting and stylistic requirements of a dissertation and thesis that is being prepared for submission to the School of Graduate Studies at Morgan. Most of these guidelines speak to requirements, and provide several options within the guidelines. For the most part, they should not be considered recommendations to be followed selectively or ignored. For the preparation of the word processing file and eventually the PDF for submission, please consult UMI/ProQuest's *Preparing Your Manuscript Guide* (2009; <http://www.proquest.com/>)

Font Style/Size

The respective style manual should guide the selection of fonts. The School of Graduate Studies recommends the following font guidelines of UMI/ProQuest. A key point is that the fonts should be “True-Type Fonts,” not scalable fonts. They also suggest the following font options:

Arial 10pt
Calibri 11pt
Century 11pt
Courier New 10pt
Garamond 12pt
Georgia 11pt
Lucida Bright 10pt
Microsoft Sans Serif 10pt
Tahoma 10pt
Times New Roman 12pt
Trebuchet MS 10pt
Verdana 10pt

The same font style must be used throughout the manuscript for text, headings, captions, page numbers, and references. Changes in font style and size may be appropriate when using illustrative or documentary materials. A smaller font size (while keeping the same font style) may be used when preparing tables, graphs, and charts, but avoid selections smaller than 9 points. Using discretion for chapter and section headings, one may increase the font size by two or three points. For symbols, use “Symbol” 12 point or a symbol font that matches the chosen font. Most word processing software includes a basic symbol font.

Margins

With the exception of the left-hand margin, all other margins must be a minimum of 1 inch wide. The left-hand margin must be a minimum of 1½ inches wide to permit

binding of the dissertation or thesis. Please remember that all pages must meet these requirements, including the Title Page, Approval Page, illustrations, and appendices.

Please refer to [Figure 2: Required Page Layout for Dissertations and Theses](#) in Chapter 5.

Justification

The text may have full justification or a ragged right margin (“ragged right” is used in this *Handbook*). Please communicate with the program advisor about the standards in the discipline. Full justification with some fonts results in widely spread text. This makes it difficult to read. It helps to test a few pages in PDF format to determine which option is best to take.

Line Spacing

Line spacing in the text must be double-spaced. The APA, MLA, and Chicago manuals of style all give direction for double spacing of references and block quotations. In some circumstances, exceptions are justified, and these may be single-spaced and not spaced with one and a half lines. The exceptions include long quotations, captions for tables and figures, footnotes, and scholarly references (e.g., footnotes, bibliography, list of references). If the references are single-spaced, then the space *between* references on the reference page or the bibliography page should be doubled. Consult the style manual for details.

Page Numbers

Page numbers may be located in one of four locations:

- centered 1 inch from the top of the page; or
- centered 1 inch from the bottom of the page; or
- the top right corner of the page (1 inch from the top edge of the paper and 1 inch from the right edge of the paper); or
- the bottom right corner of the page (1 inch from the bottom edge of the paper and 1 inch from the right edge of the paper).
- From the beginning of the Body section of the dissertation or thesis, only use one pagination system. This is to say, for example, do not begin Appendix A with page “1,” but would continue with a successive pagination pattern.

Please refer to *Figure 2: Required Page Layout for Dissertations and Theses* in Chapter 5.

Widows and Orphans

A “widow” denotes a short line of type, as one ending a paragraph, carried over to the top of the next page. An “orphan” denotes a line of type or header beginning a new paragraph at the bottom of a page. Both should be avoided; they are not pleasing elements for purposes of aesthetics and readability. Word processing software can be set to prevent widows and orphans automatically. Section headings must not appear at

the bottom of a page without any of the narrative below the heading. Move these to the top of the next page.

Chapters

Start each chapter on a new page and number the pages consecutively. Remember that subheadings and text begin one double space beneath numbering located at the top of the page and stop at least one double space above numbering located at the bottom of the page. Chapter headings may be no lower than 3 inches from the top of the page. You are not required, however, to lower the heading or increase the heading font size.

Increases in chapter heading font sizes must not exceed 3 points.

Formal Elements

All dissertations and theses must contain the formal elements discussed below. The Abstract, Title Page, Approval Page, and Table of Contents must follow the stipulations **exactly**; other pages, as long as they follow the “Basic Requirements” described above, may be designed for what fits best.

The formal elements of the dissertation or thesis must be placed in the following order:

1. Abstract (**required**, must be first and is not numbered).
2. Title Page (**required**, must follow Abstract, not numbered, but considered page Roman numeral “i.” *In other words, do not include a page number on the Title Page*).
3. Approval Page (**required**, must follow Title Page, paginate as Roman numeral “ii”).
4. Dedication (*if present*, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
5. Acknowledgments (*if present*, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
6. Table of Contents (**required**, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
7. List of Tables (paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
8. List of Figures (paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
9. List of Illustrations (paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
10. List of Abbreviations (*optional*, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals).
11. Body of Text (**required**, start pagination at Arabic numeral “1”).
12. References, Works Cited, or Bibliography (**required**, paginate with Arabic numerals).
13. Appendices (*if present*, paginate with Arabic numerals). Some style manuals reverse the order of appendices and references, and one may do so.

FRONT MATTER REQUIREMENTS

Organize the dissertation or thesis around the formal elements—further categorized as front matter, body, and end (back) matter.

Abstract

Required, must be first, not numbered. An abstract should summarize the dissertation/thesis’ central hypothesis, methodology, findings, and conclusions so that

readers can determine if they wish to read the entire text. Traditionally, an abstract should not exceed 350 words, though this originated with microfilm editors who would shorten the abstracts to save space. UMI/ProQuest no longer requires this limit. All dissertations and theses written at Morgan State University are submitted electronically for national and international distribution. In reviewing scholarly literature, researchers and other graduate students typically refer to *Dissertation Abstracts International*, a widely circulated annual compendium of abstracts of dissertations produced in most universities in the United States and abroad. For this purpose, once again, the abstract should be as explicit as possible about major findings and methods used.

For explicit formatting and wording requirements, refer to [Figure 3: Abstract Template](#) and [Figure 4: Model Abstract Page](#) in Chapter 5.

Title Page

Required, must follow Abstract, not numbered, but considered page Roman numeral “i.” The title should include words that identify unique or special aspects of the research and that distinguish it from other studies. A clear title encourages others to want to read the research. Clear titling is also important for indexing and research purposes. Make sure that the title is exactly the same on the Abstract, Title Page, Approval Page, and UMI/ProQuest agreement form. The Title Page must include the following information:

- the full title of the dissertation/thesis (just as it appears on the Abstract page),
- Author’s name as it appears in university records,
- a standardized degree statement as given below,
 - Standard Degree Statement:
A [Dissertation OR Thesis] Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree [Doctor of Philosophy, etc. OR Master of Arts, etc.].
- the month and year of *degree conferment* underneath “Morgan State University.”

For a detailed look at the placement of elements and wording requirements on the Title Page, refer to [Figure 5: Required Title Page Template](#) and [Figure 6: Title Page Model](#) in Chapter 5.

Approval Page

Required, must follow Title Page, paginate as Roman numeral “ii.” The Approval Page, although similar to the title page, displays the committee members’ full endorsement of the dissertation/thesis. The Approval Page must include the following information:

- the full title of the dissertation/thesis (just as it appears on the Title Page),

- Author’s name as it appears in university records,
- the month and year *when the dissertation/thesis was successfully defended*,
- and signature lines.

- In alphabetical order, but with the Chair's name first, list one committee member below each necessary signature line. Follow each committee member's name with a comma and then their highest (terminal) degree.
- The chair of the committee is indicated at the end of the first signature line by the term "_____, Chair." Where a student has two Chairs, both are listed as "_____, Co-Chair." In some cases, there may be a committee chair and a research advisor. These should be identified as well, with "Chair" on the first line.

For a detailed look at the placement of elements and wording requirements on the Approval Page, refer to [Figure 7: Required Approval Page Template](#) and [Figure 8: Sample Approval Page for Physical Manuscript or Submission for ETD in Chapter 5](#).

Dedication

If present, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals. In order to bestow gratitude on a special mentor, include a Dedication page. Avoid elaborate or overgenerous language. Dedications are optional, and when present, there should be short statements of recognition of only one or two people who are particularly significant.

Acknowledgments

If present, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals. If the author wants to recognize someone for providing distinctive assistance or granting unusual permission(s), include an Acknowledgements page. The Acknowledgments page should not contain personal, familial, or religious testimonies. Such testimonials will be required to be removed prior to publication. Where present, the Acknowledgments page notes the special contributions of those persons or agencies that assisted or supported the author in the writing of the dissertation or thesis. Most style manuals provide directions for writing acknowledgments appropriate to the discipline.

Table of Contents

Required, continue appropriate pagination sequence with lower-case Roman numerals. The Table of Contents lists all chapters and headings (including sub-headings) arranged exactly as those chapters (and sub-headings) appear in the body of the dissertation or thesis. In addition, the numbering of the entries in the Table of Contents must be absolutely identical with the numbering system used within the text. For example, if subheadings are numbered within Chapter 3 as 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, this same numbering must be used in the Table of Contents. Single-space may be used between chapter subheadings, but double-space between chapters or major sections. No preliminary material preceding the Table of Contents is listed. Any List of Tables, List of Figures, or

List of Illustrations, however, should appear in the Table of Contents if tables, figures, or illustrations appear in the text. All back material should appear in the Table of Contents. *Please refer to [Figure 9: Table of Contents Model in Chapter 5](#).*

List of Tables/List of Figures

Required if Tables and Figures are used, paginate with appropriate lower-case Roman numerals. Each list begins on a separate page and is placed immediately after the Table of Contents. Even one figure or one table, a list of tables, or list of figures is required. Make sure that all captions and numbering correspond with those in the Body and Table of Contents. Meet with committee members to discuss the use of tables and figures. Also, review style manuals reflective of the discipline or scholarly journals and books published in the discipline for guidance in the design and organization of tables and figures.

There are, however, several general guidelines that must be followed. Specifically, a table depicts tabulated data, while a figure depicts photographs, prints, charts, maps, graphs, plates, drawings, and diagrams. Tables and figures are numbered separately, and each, including any tables or figures found in the appendices, must bear a sequential number in its own series. Each table and figure must bear a “caption,” though the caption for a Table is actually a table title. The numbers and titles for tables are located *above* the top line of the table, while the numbers and captions for figures are located *below* the last line of the figure. Tables or figures should be inserted in the text following the first reference to a table or figure; grouping them at the end of the chapter should be avoided, though, on occasion, it may be necessary. The same is true for placing the tables and figures at the end of the dissertation or thesis. Remember, this is being printed as a book and should flow comfortably for the reader. Contemporary software provides easy manipulation of the text and figures in order to place them in the text. Explore using the features of the word processor to create table and figure headings and automatic numbering. This also allows for easy creation of the table of contents. Oversized tables and figures that are printed in landscape mode (sideways) should be placed in the dissertation or thesis so that the top of the table or figure is located at the left side of the page. The table or figure number and caption remain located at the top of the table or beneath the figure. The orientation of the page number never changes. Remember to keep the required 1.5” left-hand margin. The page number must remain in the same location when printed as all the other page numbers.

List of Illustrations

Optional, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals. This list is placed immediately following the Table of Contents, List of Tables, or List of Figures, if included. Technically, all tables and figures are classed as illustrations. One may wish to separate some illustrations as distinctly different from the others, and these illustrations may include photos, line drawings, maps, and items that need to be distinguished from “Figures.” Please keep in mind that any illustration with tabular (column) presentation is a table.

List of Abbreviations

(*Optional*, paginate with lower-case Roman numerals). This list is placed immediately following the Table of Contents, or List of Tables, or List of Figures or Illustrations if included.

BODY REQUIREMENTS

Required, start pagination at Arabic numeral “1” and number all subsequent pages consecutively to the end. The body of the dissertation/thesis should be written continuously (except in the case of avoiding widows and orphans) and double-spaced (except in previously mentioned instances). Generally, the text includes: an introduction or preface and occasionally both, a clear statement of the research problem and/or research objectives, an appropriate review of prior scholarly research, a description of the materials and methods used to conduct the research, a record of the findings, discussion and/or analysis of the findings, and a summary and conclusion to the research. *Please refer to Figure 10: Chapter 1 Sample Page in Chapter 5.*

Moreover, one should organize the body of the thesis or dissertation around chapters reflecting content referenced in the preceding paragraph. The review of literature should be extensive and sufficient enough to guide the research and to assist other researchers who seek to replicate the research or delve more deeply into the thesis or dissertation research topic. Review the organizational requirements of the dissertation or thesis with the committee chairperson and committee members.

END (BACK) MATTER REQUIREMENTS

References or Bibliography

Required, paginate with Arabic numerals. Whether positioning footnotes for each chapter at the bottom of the page, at the end of each chapter, or at the end of the dissertation, or using parenthetical citations throughout with a list of references at the end, **be certain to remain completely consistent throughout the entire dissertation/thesis. In other words, do not mix citation styles.** For instance, do not place some footnotes at the end of a chapter and also include parenthetical citations. (Explanatory footnotes are acceptable when using parenthetical citations; however, the style manuals provide specific direction for their formation.)

Appendices

If present, paginate with Arabic numerals consecutively with the prior material. Refer to the respective style manual to become familiar with what materials belong in the Appendix, as opposed to the Body. Several appendices may be included, which are labeled consecutively depending on the discipline (A, B, C, etc., or I, II, III, etc.). For material to be placed in an appendix, it must be mentioned and discussed in the text. This is a requirement for APA, and the School of Graduate Studies applies this rule to all appendices.

Do not include a cover page. The margins within the Appendix do not change, and labels should be centered. Original survey or testing documents created in a different font style are acceptable. In addition, if scanned documents from other sources are included

(and the required copyright permissions have been secured), the copied material must be legible, free of photocopying or scanning irregularities, and it must maintain the same margins as the rest of the document.

As word processing software will usually choose a default font for footnotes, be sure

that the footnotes appear in the one font chosen for the dissertation/thesis.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Documents

Do not include IRB documents in the dissertation. As with any other form of permission, it remains the obligation of the author to collect and preserve the documents that grant permission to conduct research. However, such documentation is to be kept secure and in the author's possession. It is not to be placed in the manuscript or as an appendix to the manuscript. An author should be ready to provide this documentation as proof. Understand that this is a signed document, and as such must not be placed in a published manuscript—especially one that is being published in Web accessible format. Likewise, letters of support must not be reproduced in the manuscript. If needed, an author can easily discuss the support and the IRB permission. However, it is totally unnecessary and potentially a violation of privacy to reproduce them in the document.

Chapter 5: Templates and Models of Formal Elements

The following figures illustrate the critical first pages of the dissertation or thesis. They

have been placed here using the automated “table of contents/table of figures” feature. If pages are added to earlier text or the figures reordered, the table of contents will reorder and repaginate as well, with the page numbers and figure numbers being updated. Furthermore, earlier references to the tables have been cross-referenced, and these will automatically update when needed.

Figure 2: Required Page Layout for Dissertations and Theses	23
Figure 3: Abstract Template.....	24
Figure 4: Model Abstract Page.....	25
Figure 5: Required Title Page Template.....	26
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Figure 7: Required Approval Page Template	28
Figure 8: Sample Approval Page for Physical Manuscript or Submission for ETD.....	29
Figure 9: Table of Contents Model	30
Figure 10: Chapter 1 Sample Page	31

The use of carefully constructed templates to write a dissertation or thesis will save enormous amounts of energy and untold hours of time. Improper formatting and after-the-fact repairs frequently have resulted in frustration, anxiety, and even more errors on the part of submitters. There have been several instances in which such problems resulted in missed deadlines and delayed graduation.

On the other hand, hasty use of the formatting of others can be equally dangerous, with materials from another dissertation seeping into one being submitted, and strange events like incorrect signature pages and title pages. Build the template early and create a systematic naming and draft numbering process. Confusion increases as one gets closer to the submission date, and with it, errors and anxiety multiply.

With the advent of the electronic submission process (ETD), the only high-quality paper required is for the title and signature pages. The signature pages will be placed in the final print and bound books (one of which is placed in the library). Signatures are no longer copied into the PDF or Microfilm versions prepared by UMI/ProQuest. More of the submission process is discussed in Chapter 6 of this *Handbook*.

▲ 1 inch below upper edge. # # Template

For the printed signature pages:

Paper is 8½" x 11"

25% Cotton (rag) or higher

20 Pound Weight or heavier

◀ Left margin at least one and a half (1.5) inches from the left page edge. Right margin
should be at least one (1) inch from the right page edge. ▶

The page numbers can be placed in the top-center, top flush-right, bottom-center, or bottom flush-right position marked on this page by the # (number sign). First, use the header/footer function to set top and side margins for the page numbers and place page numbers. **Then**, set the top and bottom margins to position the first and last lines of text on a page.

▼ 1 inch from page bottom edge. # # **Figure 2: Required Page Layout for Dissertations and Theses**

▲ 1 inch below upper edge.

ABSTRACT

[Begin typing heading (centered all caps) about 2 to 2¼ inches from top of page] Title of Dissertation (or Thesis): TYPE YOUR COMPLETE TITLE HERE, ALL CAPS, tabbed to two inches from left *margin*.

If necessary, continue the title

under the first word of the title, double-spaced, do not return to

the left margin. Use 12-point font (this is in 10 point for space

reasons]

[Double Space for name] [Your name as it appears in university records, degree, graduation month, and year. Use first initial caps, maintain alignment with title.]

[Double Space]

Dissertation/Thesis Chair: [Chair's full name, highest terminal degree] [Academic department or program of Chair]

[Space three lines]

Place the body of the abstract here, indenting the first paragraph one half inch and double space the entire abstract. Traditionally, the abstract should not exceed 350 words.

Do not number this page or any additional abstract pages.

▼ 1 inch from page bottom edge.

Figure 3: Abstract Template

▲ 1 inch below upper edge.

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: TYPE YOUR COMPLETE TITLE HERE, ALL CAPS Name,

Ph.D. December 2017

Dissertation Chair: [Chair's full name, highest terminal degree]

[Academic department or program of
Chair]

Place the body of the abstract here, indenting the first paragraph one half inch
and double spacing the entire abstract. Abstract should not exceed 350 words.

Do not number this page or any additional abstract pages.

▼ 1 inch from the page bottom edge.

Figure 4: Model Abstract Page

▲ 1 inch below the upper edge.

*This space must be **equal** to the line space below your month and year of graduation, see the red line below*

[TYPE COMPLETE, CENTERED TITLE HERE IN ALL CAPS, IF NECESSARY,

DOUBLE-SPACED. DO NOT CREATE LINE BREAKS OR BOLD TEXT]

[double space]

by

[double space]

[Type your full name as it appears in university records, but not all caps]

*This space must be **equal** to the line space below the standardized language.*

A [Dissertation OR Thesis] Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree

[Doctor of Philosophy, etc. OR Master of Arts, etc.]

[Use this standardized language, single-spaced]

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

[double space]

[Type month (May or December) and year of graduation, not in all caps]

Count, but do not number this page!

▼ 1 inch from the page bottom edge.

Figure 5: Required Title Page Template

▲ 1 inch below the upper edge.

FACTORS AFFECTING PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF
ALCOHOLISM ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

by

Jane S. Doe

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Philosophy

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 2017

Count and but do not number this page!

▼ 1 inch from the page bottom edge.

Figure 6: Title Page Model

▲ 1 inch below the upper edge. # ii

member's name

*This space must be **equal** to the line
space below your last committee*

Note the page number!

[TYPE COMPLETE, CENTERED TITLE HERE IN ALL CAPS IF NECESSARY,

DOUBLE-SPACED. DO NOT CREATE LINE BREAKS OR BOLD TEXT]

[double space]

by

[double space]

[Type your full name as it appears in University records, but not all
caps] [four spaces]

has been approved

[double space]

[Type month and year of your oral defense, but not all caps]

[six spaces]

DISSERTATION [or THESIS] COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

[four spaces]

, Chair

**When creating signature lines, tab over
six standard tabs (3 inches)**

[Chair's name, highest degree] [Line [Member's name, highest degree]

must be at least two inches]

[Lines must be aligned with chair
signature line]

[Member's name, highest degree]

▼ 1 inch from the page bottom edge. # # **Figure 7: Required Approval Page Template**

COMPARISONS OF THE NATURE OF PERSONAL BETRAYAL
IN *OTHELLO* AND *HAMLET*

by

John A. Doe

has been approved

March 2017

DISSERTATION [*or* THESIS] COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

William Shakespeare, Ph.D. , Chair

Robert Blake, Ph.D.

Benjamin Jonson, Ph.D.

Figure 8: Sample Approval Page for Physical Manuscript or Submission for ETD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables.....	v
List of Figures.....	viii
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
Sub-Headings	2
Chapter 2: Review of Literature.....	18
Sub-Headings	19
Chapter 3: Methodology.....	69
Sub-Headings	71
Chapter 4: Results.....	79
Sub-Headings	80
Chapter 5: Summary and Conclusions.....	92
References.....	100
Appendices.....	122

This table of contents is created using the dot-leader tab setting option. An alternative would be to use the automated Table of Contents feature that is enabled when you use the style headings available to you.

Figure 9: Table of Contents Model 30

Chapter 1: Introduction

Now that you have reviewed the instructions for preparing a format and establishing the manual of style you plan to follow, you may begin the important part of your work on your dissertation or thesis. The best-laid plans often go astray, so even if your template had all the proper bells and whistles, it may yet cause problems. However, these will be much easier to manage if you have planned from the start rather than attempted to fit the pre-existing manuscript into the proper format and style at the end.

Writing your dissertation or thesis may seem like a masterwork in progress, but please keep in mind that the work really is the first major work in what we all hope is a long and productive series of contributions to your profession. From this point on, you also represent more than yourself—you will become a reflection of the effort of your mentors, the standards of Morgan, and the mission of your professional affiliation. Take both pride and care in how you carry these new responsibilities.

Good luck with this adventure! **Figure 10: Chapter 1 Sample Page**

Chapter 6:

Submitting the Dissertation or Thesis to the School of Graduate Studies

When to Submit

When a candidate submits a dissertation or thesis to the School of Graduate Studies, the electronic copy should be ready for publication.

The School of Graduate Studies now publishes a schedule of dates when dissertations and theses can be submitted for final review and clearance by the School of Graduate Studies. The current requirement is that the candidate must submit their dissertation or thesis during this period and within 72 hours after the unconditional pass of the oral defense of the dissertation or thesis and by the deadline set forth on the university's academic calendar (usually at the end of October for December graduation of the same year and the end of March for May graduation of the same year). If the manuscript has been defended prior to the opening of the submission schedule, one must request a submission appointment for the earliest available appointment within the submission cycle. After the closing date for submissions, students cannot submit a dissertation or thesis until the next term. If a defense has been passed after the final due date, the form "Manuscript Approved for Submission to SGS" must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and accepted by the Dean in order to avoid registration requirements for the next term. The digital copy intended for submission must also be submitted. If both of these items are not submitted and noted as "received" by the Dean, then the student will be required to register.

Once submitted, if any corrections are needed due to a lack of conformity with the guidelines set forth, the Dean or the Dean's designee will provide a list of necessary corrections to the candidate and the committee chair. Corrections must be made as quickly as possible following the notice that the dissertation/thesis does not conform to the guidelines. All corrections to the dissertation/thesis must be satisfactorily completed and accepted by the School of Graduate Studies before a student is eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Before Submitting the Dissertation or Thesis

Please pay copyright, publishing, printing, and binding fees in the Office of the Bursar, Montebello Rm. 124.

Keep a receipt so that proof of payment to the School of Graduate Studies may be submitted during the deposit interview. Currently, the dissertation or thesis copyright fee is \$65, and the binding fee is \$45 (only one copy will be printed and bound by the School of Graduate Studies). (The charges are subject to change according to fee adjustments made by the companies contracted to copyright, microfilm, bind, print, and ship the dissertations and theses.) The School of Graduate Studies only requires that the student provide one copy of the dissertation or thesis for copyright and publication through *Proquest/UMI* to be placed in the *Earl S Richardson Library*.

Continuous Enrollment

Once writing has begun, the candidate must be continuously enrolled as a graduate student.

The candidate must be enrolled as a student of Morgan in order for the School of Graduate Studies to accept the dissertation/thesis. Be certain to be enrolled in the Dissertation/Thesis *Guidance* or *Seminar* course at the same time as the submission of the dissertation/thesis.

Signature Pages

Make sure the signature pages of the dissertation or thesis are printed on 8 ½ by 11-inch white paper with a minimum of 25% rag content and at least 20-pound weight.

The only printed pages that will be bound with the dissertation or thesis are the signed signature pages (see [Figure 8: Sample Approval Page for Physical Manuscript or Submission for ETD](#)). The use of acid-free cotton paper is also encouraged. This paper is required to give adequate permanence for long-term library use. One must submit printed copies of the title and abstract pages, but these are not required to be on bond paper.

Error Free Document

Make sure the dissertation or thesis is free of errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and appearance.

Responsibility to make all spelling and grammar corrections prior to submission rests on the author. Photographs, scanned documents, and other imported illustrations must be properly placed within the defined margins and set squarely on the page. Care should be taken not to reproduce the signatures of people who have submitted relevant letters and other exhibits, as these will be available on the Web. Identity security is of growing importance.

Upon Submitting the Dissertation or Thesis

One may also be required to complete federal, state, university, or other funding agency surveys as a part of the degree completion and reporting process. The diploma will not be released, nor will transcripts reflect the award of a degree, until appropriate arrangements for publishing have been made with the School of Graduate Studies.

The Submission Process

The following is the statement from the Catalog describing the electronic submission of dissertations and theses (ETD). Section IV:

IV. THESIS AND DISSERTATION REQUIREMENTS

In general, students may register for the thesis or dissertation seminar when they: 1) have met the residency requirement for their program, 2) are in good academic standing, and 3) have their department's approval.

1. FORMAL PROCESS FOR SUBMISSION

Degree candidates who have prepared a thesis or dissertation as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's or doctoral degree are required to submit the final,

approved manuscript in an electronic format as prescribed by the School of Graduate Studies. Following the candidate's oral defense, in a formal review of the submission checklist, you will receive authorization to submit the manuscript electronically (through the ProQuest portal) to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for review. The checklist confirms that the thesis or dissertation has been signed by the Committee members and has met other requirements prior to its submission. The candidate must provide an original, signed copy of the signature page at the time of the checklist review. Student and advisor are also required to have a completed and signed "Manuscript Approved for Submission to SGS" form.

2. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Procedures and regulations governing the formatting, production, and submission are published in the Morgan State University School of Graduate Studies *Dissertation and Thesis Handbook, 2016* (currently available on the School of Graduate Studies website). The *Handbook* reports the most current requirements and submission procedures and is updated regularly. Graduate students submitting a thesis or dissertation to the School of Graduate Studies will be charged a fee for publishing and copyrighting their work and will pay for one printed and bound copy for the Morgan State University Library. The School of Graduate Studies publishes the most current information on tuition and fees—including the current copyright fee—and the cost for the professionally prepared library copy in each Fall and Spring term on the School of Graduate Studies website. All fees are subject to change, and the candidate is responsible for paying fees in force at the time of submission. Fees are paid to the Bursar. Payment of the fees must be verified by a receipt from the cashier's office, and the cashier's receipt must be presented at the time of formal thesis or dissertation submission checklist review. Bound copies for personal or for a departmental library can be purchased through UMI Publishing or an arrangement with the binder used by the School of Graduate Studies.

3. DEGREE COMPLETION

Students must be enrolled in Thesis Guidance or Dissertation Guidance throughout their candidacy. If completing and defending in the summer, the student must be enrolled during that summer session. Students must be enrolled at the University at the time their thesis or dissertation is received by the School of Graduate Studies. Students must have made all corrections identified during the defense prior to submission of their thesis or dissertation to the School of Graduate Studies.

4. CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Students must be continuously enrolled at the University every semester (excluding summer sessions) once they have begun writing theses or dissertations (i.e., enrolled in Thesis Seminar, Thesis Guidance, Dissertation Seminar, or Dissertation Guidance). Students who fail to be continuously enrolled during the research, preparation, and writing of their thesis or dissertation will be required to pay the registration of the semesters they missed (excluding summer sessions) prior to the submission of their thesis or dissertation to the School of Graduate Studies.

The "Deposit" and the Steps for Electronic Submission

The steps for depositing a Thesis or Dissertation with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS):

1. Successfully defend your Thesis or Dissertation and complete all corrections.

2. Collect completed signature pages and a completed Manuscript Approval Form.
3. Complete all the tasks listed under “Complete these items before your Deposit.”
4. Come to the School of Graduate Studies to deposit your thesis or dissertation.
5. Submit the manuscript to the ProQuest ETD portal following SGS instructions.
6. Await notice of clearance, need for follow-up meeting, or review email.

Here is a sample of the current ***Deposit Checklist*** (2017):

Complete these items before your deposit:

- ☐ Candidate has **continuous** and **current** enrollment: Current Course:
- ☐ Candidate pays ☐ fee (\$75.00) and
- ☐ filed the application for graduation for:
- ☐ Candidate pays publication fees. Current amount required: **\$110.00**.
- ☐ Print two copies of the title page for the database, plus one copy of the abstract.
- ☐ Chair signs “Manuscript Approved for Submission to SGS” form.
- ☐ Committee signs at least two copies of the signature pages (we recommend more).
- ☐ Doctoral candidate completes *Survey of Earned Doctorates* and prints the SED certificate.

At the deposit (the materials will be placed in a file for SGS review and approval):

- ☐ Provide copies of receipts and the required documents listed above.
- ☐ Provide two copies of the title page for the database, plus one copy of the abstract.
- ☐ Provide two Official signature pages with original signatures.
- ☐ Provide an electronic copy of the manuscript in Word or RTF on a physical media (USB drive or CD-ROM) to the School of Graduate Studies (**drive will not be returned**).
- ☐ Present printed certificate of completed *Survey of Earned Doctorates* (Doctoral Candidate).
- ☐ Receive a completed checklist signed by SGS Staff confirming the completed deposit.

After the deposit:

- ☐ Review the document following the “common errors” checklist and create a PDF.
- ☐ Create an account and submit the PDF to the ProQuest ETD Administration portal.
- ☐ Monitor email for follow-up instructions and/or manuscript clearance from the Dean.

The current (2016) fees for copyright and binding are as follows:

Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation	
Copyright Fee \$65.00	Pricing below includes all fees: 1 bound copy \$110.00 This copy is for the Library
Printing and Binding Fee \$45.00	

Figure 11: Fees for Copyrighting and Publishing



School of Graduate Studies Electronic Thesis and Dissertation (ETD)

Manuscript Approved for Submission to SGS

The thesis or dissertation of the candidate has been approved in a defense according to the guidelines of the program. The final manuscript has now been approved for submission by the committee and all required approvers in the program.

To be completed by the candidate:

Candidate:

Banner ID: Program:

Degree:

Committee Chair:

Title:

In addition to the guidelines provided in the *Morgan State University School of Graduate Studies Thesis and Dissertation Handbook*, Third Edition, the following style manual was followed in the preparation of this manuscript:

- ☐ *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition* (American Psychological Association, 2009).
- ☐ Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (Third edition, 2008).
- ☐ *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Sixteenth Edition. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- ☐ *IEEE Editorial Style Manual* (published online).
- ☐ Other, Identify:

As the individual designated to report this approval, I affirm that the candidate has passed the required defense and the manuscript is fully approved.

Graduate Coordinator, Advisor, Committee Chair Date

Phone: Email:

Form revised 3/2015. Page 2

Chapter 7: Common Mistakes in Preparing Dissertations and Theses

Default Devils

Microsoft Word has a number of default settings that frequently start automatically. Be very cautious about letting automatic outlining and automatic numbering take over. Often, turning them off after they have started does not recover what one had originally meant to accomplish. Inserting pages can often create sections that carry the format of the original document into the final document. If a page is typed as a new page while revising, copying that page into the master document will carry the format of the new page into the master document and create an invisible section. To avoid the problems of shifting margins and floating page numbers, create a template and type all notes, appendices, references, tables, figures, charts, illustrations, and front matter by selecting the manuscript template. If no one else is using the computer, a document template can be for the thesis or dissertation as a default template for all documents for the duration of one's time as a degree candidate. If material is prepared on a different computer, then, before inserting the new material into the master document, copy it into a blank template page. Fix the format errors in this new document and then copy the corrected material into the master document. Copying the new, improperly formatted material directly into the master document and then trying to correct the formatting errors after the fact will result in unexpected (and often unexplained) consequences. Eventually, everyone soon discovers how, to coin a phrase, "the devil is in the defaults."

Basic Pagination

In the dissertation, create three sections: Abstract (no paging), front matter (small roman numerals, no number placed on the title page, but it counts as page "i"; that is, page one), and the body section. Use headers or footers for the paging, not the overriding "place number here" option. Each of the three sections must be marked as "discontinuous" (or separated) from the previous section (do this after the sections are created). To remove the page number "i" from the title page, select "different first page" in the header/footer formatting list. The first page of the body must be an Arabic 1 and it must be on the page.

When in difficulty, try using the Help function of Word. Of course, Google searches and YouTube videos have answers to all these things.

Setting Tabs and Spacing

APA, MLA, IEEE, Chicago Manual of Style, and other style manuals all recommend an indentation set at one-half inch. The default first tab in both Microsoft Word and WordPerfect is set at one-half inch. A block quotation uses this single tab width to indent the entire blocked quotation. This default should not be altered. Another default that needs to be removed is the automatic extra line placed between paragraphs. None of the style manuals allow this either.

Fonts

Fonts are distinguished by their height (point size), their X ratio (the width of the X in relation to the height of the X; making some fonts narrow and others “square”; for instance, the Verdana X is slightly more square than the Ariel X), and whether or not they have serifs. Serifs are the small, often curved or widened elements added to individual letters. They are noticeable in the **T** in Times New Roman and clearly absent in **T** in Ariel. Sans serif (“without” serifs) fonts are easily read on computer screens and projected media like presentation projectors and conventional television screens. Serif fonts enable comfortable reading in printed media. Computer screens originally had 72 dpi (dots per inch) and thus could not render the serifs accurately. Print media, like a news magazine, typically have about 1270 dpi (HD TV, by the way, is up to 1080 lines for the entire screen). The “camera-ready copy” of a 600 x 600 dpi laser printer has essentially one-quarter of the detail of professional print media. PostScript printing allowed for the information to be included in a digital document that enabled rich production of print media. Portable Document Format (PDF) was an early means of encoding and transferring PostScript documents digitally. Now, a standard PDF can be saved with more detail than the laser printer requires, and publishers have been using the PDF as a replacement for the printer’s “page proofs” (an actual print run of the typeset manuscript as a test used to complete a final edit). As one begins publishing book chapters and full book manuscripts, an author is likely to use PDF documents to review the final copy-edited material digitally.

Ellipses

The common formation of “...” as the ellipses is incorrect. Ellipses are formed with three spaced periods (as in “. . .” rather than “...”). See the *Publication Manual* (APA, 2009), Section 6.08, for instructions regarding the APA style for ellipses. The most detailed discussion of this can be found in the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Sixteenth Edition, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), which distinguishes a three-dot method, a three or four-dot method, and the rigorous method in Sections 13.48 through 13.56. The punctuation “...” is actually a part of mathematical equations and has specific meaning.

Types of Dashes

There are at least seven general types of dashes and hyphens. They all have very specific uses.

Hyphen = -

Word separator.

En dash = –

Shows numerical range, such as 1995–1998 or pages 32–35.

Em dash = —

Used in creating appositive phrases to set off special text in a sentence.

Minus = –

The minus sign in a formula indicates subtraction.

Negative sign = –

The negative sign is used to express a negative number. It is not the same as the minus sign, but printers rarely distinguish them.

Figural dash = -

The hyphen-like item that separates numbers in a telephone number or a Social Security number.

Double/triple dashes plus = — — —

The dashes used in bibliographies indicate the repeated name of an author.

These each have a specific use. In Word, “Insert > Symbol > Special Characters” gets all the characters and their keyboard shortcuts. Please review the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition* (American Psychological Association, 2009) regarding how to form dashes and how to distinguish dashes from hyphens. See *Publication Manual* (APA, 2009), Sections 4.13 and 4.06. For another source, review the *Chicago Manual of Style* (Sixteenth Edition, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010), Sections 6.75 through 6.96 for proper usage and formation of dashes.

Three-Em-Dash

The proper three em-dash is constructed from six hyphens. This is the proper *Chicago Manual* and the method used in *MLA* style. For an article being sent for publication, six hyphens would do (the publisher would be typesetting the piece from the electronic contribution). For a dissertation meant to be a book-like production, a true three em dash is the most desirable. As in:

— — — . 1790.

Word does not create a three em-dash without some coaxing. Here is the method that appears to work:

1. Create an em-dash.

—

2. Copy the em-dash so that you have three of them.

— — —

3. Add a period and several spaces or an “enter” (hard return) after the three em-dashes.

— — — .

4. Highlight just the three dashes (not the following space or period) and select “Font” to adjust the “kerning”:

Go to "Font";
Select the "Character Spacing" tab;
Select "Spacing" "Condensed" by 2pts; (Test the points for the document and font). This last step removes the spaces between the dashes.

— — —.

5. Copy this to the three em-dash locations. The trailing space should help prevent the kerning from spreading all over the manuscript. Test this (test adding the period and two trailing spaces for insurance).

Et al.

The proper form of using et al. is this: Author et al. (2004) or (Author et al., 2004). The *APA manual* uses the comma in the in text reference, and MLA and Chicago do not. Please confer with the *Publication Manual* (APA, 2009), Sections 4.26, 6.12, 6.16, and 7.02. For the use of et al. in the Chicago Manual, examine the *Chicago Manual*, Sections 5.220, 15.24, 15.28, 14.76, and others (check the index). Because it is a common Latin form, it is not italicized. For its use in a serial list, see Section 14.76.

Serial Comma

The serial comma (the comma before the “and” in “x, y, and z”) is required by the *APA Manual*, *MLA*, *Chicago*, and all other major manuals of style, as well as the guides to writing, including Strunk and White. Please use the serial comma (the comma before the “and” in “x, y, and z”) throughout. The serial comma is also known as the Harvard comma and the Oxford comma.

Commas and Periods and Quotation Marks

While completing a final version of the dissertation, check the punctuation order for references and quote marks. Periods and commas always go inside the quote marks unless a reference follows, then after the closed parenthesis.

Landscaped Pages

The page numbers on landscaped tables must appear in the same position and orientation as on other pages (that is, as if the page were printed in portrait mode). Also, landscaped pages must be placed so that the top of the landscaped table is on the left margin of the portrait orientation (at 1.5 inches).

Landscape pages represent a unique challenge and must be constructed with care. Methods for constructing them have been described in a number of locations on the internet, and there are at least three different ways to accomplish the task.

Appendix A: Research Misconduct

(From the **Federal Register** / Vol. 65, No. 235 / Wednesday, December 6, 2000 / Notices, pages 76262-76264.)

Federal Policy on Research Misconduct ²

I. Research³ Misconduct Defined

Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results.

- Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them. · Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.⁴
- Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
- Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

II. Findings of Research Misconduct

A finding of research misconduct requires that:

- There be a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community; and
- The misconduct be committed intentionally, or knowingly, or recklessly; and
- The allegation be proven by a preponderance of evidence.

III. Responsibilities of Federal Agencies and Research Institutions⁵

Agencies and research institutions are partners who share responsibility for the research process. Federal agencies have ultimate oversight authority for federally funded research, but research institutions bear primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of research misconduct and for the inquiry, investigation, and adjudication of research misconduct alleged to have occurred in association with their own institution.

- *Agency Policies and Procedures.* Agency policies and procedures with regard to intramural as well as extramural programs must conform to the policy described in this document.

²No rights, privileges, benefits, or obligations are created or abridged by the issuance of this policy alone. The creation or abridgment of rights, privileges, benefits or obligations, if any, shall occur only upon implementation of this policy by the Federal agencies.

³Research, as used herein, includes all basic, applied, and demonstration research in all fields of science, engineering, and mathematics. This includes, but is not limited to, research in economics, education, linguistics, medicine, psychology, social sciences, statistics, and research involving human subjects or animals.

⁴The research record is the record of data or results that embody the facts resulting from scientific inquiry, and includes, but is not limited to, research proposals, laboratory records, both physical and electronic, progress reports, abstracts, theses, oral presentations, internal reports, and journal articles.

⁵The term "research institutions" is defined to include all organizations using Federal funds for research, including, for example, colleges and universities, intramural Federal research laboratories, Federally funded research and development centers, national user facilities, industrial laboratories, or other research institutes. Independent

- *Agency Referral to Research Institution.* In most cases, agencies will rely on the researcher's home institution to make the initial response to allegations of research misconduct. Agencies will usually refer allegations of research misconduct made directly to them to the appropriate research institution. However, at any time, the Federal agency may proceed with its own inquiry or investigation. Circumstances in which agencies may elect not to defer to the research institution include, but are not limited to, the following: the agency determines the institution is not prepared to handle the allegation in a manner consistent with this policy; agency involvement is needed to protect the public interest, including public health and safety; the allegation involves an entity of sufficiently small size (or an individual) that it cannot reasonably conduct the investigation itself.
- *Multiple Phases of the Response to an Allegation of Research Misconduct.* A response to an allegation of research misconduct will usually consist of several phases, including: (1) an *inquiry*—the assessment of whether the allegation has substance and if an investigation is warranted; (2) an *investigation*—the formal development of a factual record, and the examination of that record leading to dismissal of the case or to a recommendation for a finding of research misconduct or other appropriate remedies; (3) *adjudication*— during which recommendations are reviewed and appropriate corrective actions determined.
- *Agency Follow-up to Institutional Action.* After reviewing the record of the investigation, the institution's recommendations to the institution's adjudicating official, and any corrective actions taken by the research institution, the agency will take additional oversight or investigative steps if necessary. Upon completion of its review, the agency will take appropriate administrative action in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, or policies. When the agency has made a final determination, it will notify the subject of the allegation of the outcome and inform the institution regarding its disposition of the case. The agency findings of research misconduct and agency administrative actions can be appealed pursuant to the agency's applicable procedures.
- *Separation of Phases.* Adjudication is separated organizationally from inquiry and investigation. Likewise, appeals are separated organizationally from inquiry and investigation.
- *Institutional Notification of the Agency.* Research institutions will notify the funding agency (or agencies in some cases) of an allegation of research misconduct if (1) the allegation involves Federally funded research (or an application for Federal funding) and meets the Federal definition of research misconduct given above, and (2) if the institution's inquiry into the allegation determines there is sufficient evidence to proceed to an investigation. When an investigation is complete, the research institution will forward to the agency a copy of the evidentiary record, the investigative report, recommendations made to the institution's adjudicating official, and the subject's written response to the recommendations (if any). When a research institution completes the adjudication phase, it will forward the adjudicating official's decision and notify the agency of any corrective actions taken or planned.

- *Other Reasons to Notify the Agency.* At any time during an inquiry or investigation, the institution will immediately notify the Federal agency if public health or safety is at risk; if agency resources or interests are threatened; if research activities should be suspended; if there is reasonable indication of possible violations of civil or criminal law; if Federal action is required to protect the interests of those involved in the investigation; if the research institution believes the inquiry or investigation may be made public prematurely so that appropriate steps can be taken to safeguard evidence

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and protect the rights of those involved; or if the research community or public should be informed.

- *When More Than One Agency is Involved.* A lead agency should be designated to coordinate responses to allegations of research misconduct when more than one agency is involved in funding activities relevant to the allegation. Each agency may implement administrative actions in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, or contractual procedures.

IV. Guidelines for Fair and Timely Procedures

The following guidelines are provided to assist agencies and research institutions in developing fair and timely procedures for responding to allegations of research misconduct. They are designed to provide safeguards for subjects of allegations as well as for informants. Fair and timely procedures include the following:

- *Safeguards for Informants.* Safeguards for informants give individuals the confidence that they can bring allegations of research misconduct made in good faith to the attention of appropriate authorities or serve as informants to an inquiry or an investigation without suffering retribution. Safeguards include protection against retaliation for informants who make good faith allegations, fair and objective procedures for the examination and resolution of allegations of research misconduct, and diligence in protecting the positions and reputations of those persons who make allegations of research misconduct in good faith.
- *Safeguards for Subjects of Allegations.* Safeguards for subjects give individuals the confidence that their rights are protected and that the mere filing of an allegation of research misconduct against them will not bring their research to a halt or be the basis for other disciplinary or adverse action absent other compelling reasons. Other safeguards include timely written notification of subjects regarding substantive allegations made against them; a description of all such allegations; reasonable access to the data and other evidence supporting the allegations; and the opportunity to respond to allegations, the supporting evidence, and the proposed findings of research misconduct (if any).
- *Objectivity and Expertise.* The selection of individuals to review allegations and conduct investigations who have appropriate expertise and have no unresolved conflicts of interest helps to ensure fairness throughout all phases of the process.
- *Timeliness.* Reasonable time limits for the conduct of the inquiry, investigation, adjudication, and appeal phases (if any), with allowances for extensions where appropriate, provide confidence that the process will be well managed.

- *Confidentiality During the Inquiry, Investigation, and Decision-Making Processes.* To the extent possible, consistent with a fair and thorough investigation and as allowed by law, knowledge about the identity of subjects and information is limited to those who need to know. Records maintained by the agency during the course of responding to an allegation of research misconduct are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act to the extent permitted by law and regulation.

V. Agency Administrative Actions

- *Seriousness of the Misconduct.* In deciding what administrative actions are appropriate, the agency should consider the seriousness of the misconduct, including, but not limited to, the degree to which the misconduct was knowing, intentional, or reckless; was an

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isolated event or part of a pattern; or had a significant impact on the research record, research subjects, other researchers, institutions, or the public welfare.

- *Possible Administrative Actions.* Administrative actions available include, but are not limited to, appropriate steps to correct the research record; letters of reprimand; the imposition of special certification or assurance requirements to ensure compliance with applicable regulations or terms of an award; suspension or termination of an active award; or suspension and debarment in accordance with applicable governmentwide rules on suspension and debarment. In the event of suspension or debarment, the information is made publicly available through the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs maintained by the U.S. General Services Administration. With respect to administrative actions imposed upon government employees, the agencies must comply with all relevant federal personnel policies and laws.
- *In Case of Criminal or Civil Fraud Violations.* If the funding agency believes that criminal or civil fraud violations may have occurred, the agency shall promptly refer the matter to the Department of Justice, the Inspector General for the agency, or other appropriate investigative body.

VI. Roles of Other Organizations

This Federal policy does not limit the authority of research institutions or other entities to promulgate additional research misconduct policies or guidelines or more specific ethical guidance.

Appendix B: Helpful Bibliographies

Bibliography: Style Manuals

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Appendix C: Common Problems to Avoid

Inconsistency

- Do not combine font styles and sizes, unless otherwise noted.
- Do not use more than one type of justification. In other words, do not include full and ragged right justification.
- In general, and based on the standards of your respective style manual, avoid switching back and forth from active (Alice Walker wrote *The Color Purple*) to passive voice (*The Color Purple* was written by Alice Walker).

Improper Emphasis

- Do not use boldface or italics to emphasize words, phrases, or sentences, unless your style manual allows for such emphasis.
- Do not use capital letters to emphasize words, phrases, or sentences.

Do not underline words, phrases, or sentences in order to stress their significance.

Sloppy Citations

- Do not mix citation styles or “pick and choose” different elements from more than one style.
- Do not give your References section a chapter label.
- Do not use your References (or Works Cited) and Bibliography (or Works Consulted) sections as if they are one unit. Each list is separate and should be implemented based on *your* explicit purpose and the objective *of each compilation*.
- Do not cite a source in the body of your text without also including the source in your References. Your body citations and Reference listings should follow a one-to-one correspondence.
- Do not include tables and figures without “source” notes.
- Above all, and whenever possible (i.e., if the original source *is not* “unknown”), you should be citing primary sources. Only in rare instances would you need to cite secondary sources. Never cite a secondary source as a primary one.

Committee/Student Rapport

- Do not have your committee members sign your Approval Page without having first read the final manuscript.

Inflated Dedications and Acknowledgements

- Avoid using dedications and acknowledgements as an occasion to name extended family members or a wide circle of friends.

- Avoid using dedications and acknowledgements as an occasion for extensive personal testimonies or religious professions of faith.
- Do keep dedications and acknowledgements as an occasion to acknowledge in a concise manner those who have been particularly instrumental or supportive in the writing of your dissertation/thesis.

Appendix D: Common Errors Requiring Correction

Use as a Checklist:

- ☐ 1. Font in paging cannot be different from font in text.
- ☐ 2. Incorrect page numbering: Abstract not counted; Title page is “i” but is not placed on the page; Chapter 1 is page 1.
- ☐ 3. Margins incorrect.
- ☐ 4. Landscape pages must have page number in location of bound manuscript.
- ☐ 5. Incorrect ellipses: “...” should be “. . .” (three spaced dots).
- ☐ 6. Incorrect “et al.”
- ☐ 7. Misuse of dashes. Dashes are not colons, and the em-dash “—” is different from an en dash “-”; no dash or hyphen usage has spaces on either side of it. Sticking a dash into a sentence because you do not know the correct punctuation is not allowed.
- ☐ 8. Appendices must be in the order of their discussion in the manuscript. ☐ 9. Style guides are very specific regarding the reference style. Please review the submission with great care.
- ☐ 10. The serial comma (the comma before the “and” in “x, y, and z”) is required by all the style manuals.
- ☐ 11. The standard indent for paragraphs is one-half inch.
- ☐ 12. Remove the trailing extra spaces between paragraphs. APA and MLA require double spacing throughout.
- ☐ 13. Periods and commas always go inside the quote marks unless a reference follows, then after the closed parenthesis.
- ☐ 14. Back-to-back parentheses are not allowed by APA.
- ☐ 15. Your thesis or dissertation was approved during one month, and your title page will indicate the month of graduation.

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