

## Thesis and Dissertation Formatting Requirements



UNIVERSITY *of*  
DENVER

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OFFICE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION

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## DISSERTATION/THESIS CHECKLIST

Please review this checklist prior to uploading your dissertation/thesis to ETD:

- Confirm that all necessary pages are included:
  - Title page, dated correctly - including the month and year of your official graduation
    - Fall - “December 2020”
    - Winter - “March 2021”
    - Spring - “June 2021”
    - Summer - “August 2021”
  - Copyright page (optional)
  - Abstract
  - Acknowledgements, if included, do not exceed one page
  - Table of Contents
  - List of Tables, if necessary
  - List of Figures, if necessary
  - Bibliography
- Fonts used in the document are embedded.
- Margins must be at least 1 1/2” on left side of paper; 1” on the top, right side, and bottom of page (page numbers must not intrude into the 1” bottom margin).
- The top margin for pages with chapter headings should be 2”.
- Document is in one PDF file.
- Entire PDF file has been reviewed by the student to ensure formatting was not lost in a Word to PDF conversion.** It is recommended that students using Word convert their document to a PDF by clicking file, print, and then adobe PDF from the Word menu.

## PRELIMINARY STEPS

The submission of your dissertation is a requirement for receipt of the doctoral degree, and a thesis is a requirement for receipt of some master's degrees. Your finished manuscript is a scholarly work that is the product of extensive research and related preparation. The dissertation and thesis are also a permanent record of original research. The University of Denver's Office of Graduate Education is committed to the preservation and dissemination of the research contributions of its students; most of the requirements outlined in this document were established with that commitment in mind.

Additionally, formatting requirements are described herein to meet the requirements of UMI Dissertation and Thesis Publishing (ProQuest Information and Learning). While the content of a dissertation or thesis is the prerogative of the student and their dissertation/thesis committee, and the style of the writing determined by the department, the format is established by the Office of Graduate Education. This document outlines procedures designed to make preparation as efficient as possible. Please read and follow these procedures carefully to avoid time-consuming revisions. **You may also access a formatting template on [this webpage](#).**

It is our hope that this document will help you to complete your thesis or dissertation. If you continue to have questions after reading these instructions, please contact the Office of Graduate Education at [gradservices@du.edu](mailto:gradservices@du.edu).

### PREPARING YOUR DISSERTATION/THESIS

Students submit the final approved PDF version of their dissertation/thesis to ETD/ProQuest no later than the deadline published in the Schedule of Deadlines for your quarter of graduation (deadlines can be found on the OGE website: <https://www.du.edu/graduate-education/current-student-resources/dissertation-thesis-information>).

Before submitting the PDF of your dissertation/thesis, please consult the checklist found at the beginning of this document. You are encouraged to discuss any questions you might have about the format with the Office of Graduate Education. While students are encouraged to submit their dissertation/thesis for review as early as possible to help avoid revisions which might prove time consuming and which might delay graduation, **please be sure that the version submitted to the Office of Graduate Education is the final approved version by your committee with all revisions made.**

The requirements that follow represent the minimal standards for professional preparation of your dissertation/thesis. If your dissertation/thesis does not conform to the minimum standards, you will be required to redesign and resubmit it.

Please read this document carefully.

Do not use previously approved dissertations/theses in your department as a guide to preparation of your dissertation/thesis.

If considering hiring an outside editor, you must first secure your faculty advisor's approval. In addition, please note that our office only works with students not outside editors.

## FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

The specifications that follow regarding arrangement of the dissertation/thesis, type, margins, spacing, paragraphing, page numbering, and information regarding form pages **take precedence** over specifications that may be given in your style manual (see [this section](#)). It is imperative that your dissertation/thesis conform to these specifications.

The library at the University of Michigan provides tutorials regarding how to utilize automatic functions in Microsoft Word, including formatting page numbers, generating automatic table of contents, working with styles, and many more. For a full listing of tutorials, please see <http://guides.lib.umich.edu/content.php?pid=245394&sid=2027134>. ETD/ProQuest also has an FAQ webpage that may be helpful: <https://support.proquest.com/articledetail?id=kA11W00000PEa5SAG>.

### ARRANGEMENT OF THE DISSERTATION/THESIS

The order in which you should arrange the elements in the final copy of your dissertation/thesis is below. The items with a check mark in the “Required” field are mandatory; the others are optional. Each element begins on a separate page. **Samples of certain required pages are found at the end of this document. Those samples should be followed as precisely as possible.** You may also utilize the formatting template found on the OGE [website](#).

Front Matter		
Required	Item	Page Numbering
✓	Title Page (see <a href="#">this section</a> )	No page number
	Copyright Page (see <a href="#">this section</a> )	No page number (not included in pagination)
✓	Abstract (see <a href="#">this section</a> )	Small Roman numerals (start with page ii)
	Acknowledgments	Continue small Roman numerals
✓	Table of Contents (see <a href="#">this section</a> )	Continue small Roman numerals
	List of Tables, required if your document has 5 tables or more	Continue small Roman numerals
	List of Figures, required if your document has 5 figures or more	Continue small Roman numerals

Body of Text		
Required	Item	Page Numbering
✓	Text	Arabic numbers (start with page 1)
	Endnotes	Continue Arabic numbers

Back Matter		
Required	Item	Page Numbering
✓	Bibliography	Arabic numbers continued from body of text
	Appendix (Appendices)	Continue Arabic numbers

**YOU MUST ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEEING THAT ALL PAGES ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROPER ORDER AND THAT THE ABSTRACT IS INCLUDED IN EACH COPY.** The Office of Graduate Education, the University of Denver Main Library, and ProQuest will not assume responsibility for missing pages.

## PAGE NUMBERS

Your dissertation/thesis will have two sets of page numbers; one set for the front matter and one set for the rest of your document. Pages of front matter are numbered in small Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv). Not every page number appears - that is, are not typed on the page. On the title page, the number is not shown but the page is counted in the pagination. The optional copyright page does not have a page number and is not counted in pagination. Pages in the body of the text, endnotes if used, and the back matter (i.e., bibliography and appendix) are numbered in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3). The first page of the first chapter is the first page of the body and should be numbered accordingly.

You may choose to create your dissertation/thesis in one document, or you may create a separate document for each type of page numbering and then merge them together after they have been converted to PDF files. Instructions for merging several PDF files into one document can be found at <https://support.proquest.com/article/detail?id=kAo1Wooooook9nsSAA>.

Position of Page Numbers: If a page number is called for, it should be centered at the bottom of the page, standing on an imaginary line one inch up from the bottom edge of the page. Page numbers should not intrude into the 1-inch margin.

## TYPE

Style and size of type should be consistent throughout the dissertation/thesis. Exceptions may be made for material such as tables reproduced from some other medium, oversized tables or figures, and for material in the appendix, but all material must be legible and conform to margin requirements.

**Embedded fonts are required.** 10 pt. Arial or 12 pt. Times New Roman are recommended. Decorative fonts are not allowed and bold and italics should be used sparingly. Please see instructions on how to embed fonts at <https://www.howtogeek.com/106681/how-to-embed-fonts-in-a-microsoft-word-document/>

If you choose to do your own word processing, you must be knowledgeable of all aspects of format. No substitutions will be accepted.

## MARGINS

The finished dissertation/thesis must have the margins indicated below. It is essential to adhere to these margins. All parts of your dissertation/thesis (including tables and figures) must conform to these margin requirements including material in the appendix and may not intrude in to the established margins.

**Top margin must be 1 inch.**

**Note:** The top margin to a chapter heading must be 2 inches.

**Left margin must be 1 ½ inches.**

The wider left margin provides room for the binding.

**Right margin must be 1 inch.**

It is recommended that divided words be kept at a minimum so there will not be a row of hyphens down the right margin. Divide words as indicated in a standard dictionary. No word should ever be divided by two letters, i.e., de-sign. At least three letters should be used, if necessary, i.e., con-vention.

**Bottom margin must be 1 inch.**

This margin is measured from the bottom edge of the page to the foot of the page number. **Page numbers must not intrude into the 1" margin.**

**Note: All marginal requirements are minimum distances.**

## HEADINGS

All headings should be consistent throughout your document, including capitalization, font, style and alignment. This includes all headings in the front matter, back matter, and body of text. (Subheadings in the body of text are permitted to be different than the chapter/front matter/back matter headings, but they must be consistent with the other headings of the same level.)

## PARAGRAPHS

**Indentation:** Indent the first line of each paragraph.

Widows and Orphans: There must be at least two lines of a paragraph at the bottom of the page, or at the top of the page. The last line of a paragraph may not appear at the top of the page, nor may the first line of a paragraph appear at the bottom of the page. These are known as “widows” and “orphans.” When the last line of a paragraph appears alone at the top of a page, it is called a “widow”. When the first line of a paragraph appears alone at the bottom of a page, it is called an “orphan”. Most versions of Microsoft Word have an automatic feature to control widows and orphans in a document. Please ensure that this function is turned on to prevent widows and orphans in your document. Instructions for setting Microsoft Word to avoid widows and orphans is available at <https://www.howtogeek.com/257674/how-to-stop-pages-from-breaking-after-the-first-line-of-a-paragraph-in-microsoft-word/>

## SPACING

All material in your thesis or dissertation should be double-spaced, including quotations from interview participants or other sources not formally cited in your bibliography/works cited section and between chapters and figure/table entries within the table of contents and lists (for a sample, please see [this section](#)) **These requirements take precedence over your style manual.** The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- Single-space long, blocked quotations from formally cited sources in your bibliography/works cited section. A quotation that would continue for more than three lines of your typed text is considered “long” and should be blocked and single-spaced. **Interview quotations and sources not formally cited in your bibliography/works cited section should be double-spaced regardless of their length.**
- Single-space lines within footnote/endnote entries (but double-space between entries). This may not be an issue, since you may choose to use parenthetical citations instead of footnotes or endnotes.
- Single-space lines within table and figure titles. Single-space material within tables and figures if you wish.
- Single-space within chapter entries in the table of contents and in the lists of figures and tables.
- You may single space entries in a bibliography/list of references if it is required by your style manual.

## STYLE MANUALS

Check with your department advisor to select the proper style manual. The dissertation/thesis must be in accordance with a recognized style manual, formatted according to the Office of Graduate Education requirements detailed in this document, and styled in conformity with the style manual you have chosen.

The form and other procedures to be followed in preparing the dissertation/thesis manuscript must be in accordance with a recognized style manual. Styles may not be interchanged. Check with your department advisor before proceeding to ascertain the proper form, appropriate to your field.

You will be using the manual as a guide for styling your citations and your bibliography. In addition, you will consult it for directions on how properly to style quotations, certain abbreviations, capitalization, punctuation, symbols, and numbers for which usage differs from field to field. The important things are to follow your style manual and to be consistent; **however, the requirements outlined in this document take precedence over the instructions in your style manual.**

Campbell/Ballou, MLA, Turabian, and University of Chicago Press are all acceptable styles. Students writing theses in Psychology, Education and certain other areas may use a form acceptable to such agencies as the American Psychological Association (APA) or comparable standardizing groups. If your committee has no preference, Turabian is highly recommended. In an easy-to-understand format, it demonstrates both note style and parenthetical reference style.

#### NOTES, CITATIONS

Citations may be made as footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references but one format must be used consistently throughout the text. Please check with your department or committee as to what form of citation is required.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgments are not necessary but may be given for professional assistance and in cases where the author is grateful for any special or non-routine aid. The dissertation/thesis is a published, professional document, and acknowledgements, if included, should be expressed simply and reflect a professional tone and nature. **If you include an acknowledgments page, it must be double-spaced, and should not exceed one page.** Please do not include a dedication page.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

The form of the bibliography must be consistent with the style manual used to format the whole text.

#### APPENDIX

An appendix should be used for materials that supplement the text but are not appropriate for inclusion in it. Original data, summary tabulations, tables containing data of lesser importance,

and lengthy quotations belong in the appendix. Questionnaires with their letters of transmittal and verbatim comments of respondents belong in an appendix.

Materials of different categories should be placed in separate appendices. When there is more than one appendix, each should be given a number or a letter (APPENDIX 1, APPENDIX 2, etc.; APPENDIX A, APPENDIX B, etc.)

**All material in the appendices must fit within the margin requirements outlined in [this section](#).**

#### ILLUSTRATIONS/PHOTOS

Photos and illustrations should be digitally inserted into your text. Color may be used and will be maintained when viewing the dissertation/thesis electronically but will be printed in black and white if a bound copy is ordered through UMI/ProQuest.

The images used in your dissertation/thesis must be included in a “List of Figures,” which follows your Table of Contents, if your dissertation/thesis includes five or more figures.

#### TABLES

Tables should be digitally inserted into your text. Any included tables must be within the boundaries of the established margins. Additionally, if your dissertation/thesis includes five or more tables, you must also include a “List of Tables” following your Table of Contents.

## FINAL SUBMISSION OF YOUR DISSERTATION/THESIS

A final submission of your dissertation/thesis must be made in PDF format. Instructions for submitting your dissertation/thesis can be found on the OGE website:

<https://www.du.edu/graduate-education/current-student-resources/dissertation-thesis-information>.

When you submit your final document, it must be in the form of one PDF file with embedded fonts. A tutorial on how to embed fonts, convert Word to a PDF file and how to merge several PDF files into one file can be found at <https://www.howtogeek.com/106681/how-to-embed-fonts-in-a-microsoft-word-document/>. Adobe Acrobat Standard or Professional version is required to convert the Word file into a PDF. Acrobat is available on select computers in several locations around campus.

**Although the Word to PDF conversion maintains most of the document formatting, some formatting may have shifted slightly; therefore, it is very important that you review your entire PDF document before submitting to ensure that the formatting has not shifted.**

## APPROVAL PAGE

The Office of Graduate Education will send an approval page to the director of your dissertation/thesis 10 days prior to your oral defense. The page must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Education by your thesis/dissertation director before the final copy of your document will be accepted.

## FEES

Fees are due when you submit the final copy of your dissertation/thesis and want to have them submit the paperwork for Copyright (optional). The fees are paid directly through the secure ETD Administrator system.

## SAMPLE PAGES

The following pages contain instructions and samples of the required form for certain pages in the dissertation/thesis. Follow the centering, spacing, and capitalization as precisely as possible. If you have any questions regarding the wording or spacing for these pages, please email [gradservices@du.edu](mailto:gradservices@du.edu).

Below you will find sample pages for:

- Title Page
- Copyright Page
- Abstract
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- Page with a chapter heading
- Landscape Page

## TITLE PAGE

The title page should be as concise as possible, consistent with giving an accurate description of the dissertation/thesis. Be sure to spell out in English any symbols, formulas, Greek letters, and so on.

Center all materials between the margins. To be acceptable, the date on the title page must carry the **month and year of graduation** (not the month and year of the oral defense). Please be certain that the degree and the faculty are listed accurately wherever they appear.

On the title page the number is not shown, but the page is counted in the pagination

The appropriate nomenclature\* to be included on the title page must be stated exactly as follows (including the capitalization):

- the Faculty of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- the Faculty of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- the Faculty of the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science
- the Faculty of the University of Denver and the Iliff School of Theology Joint PhD Program
- the Faculty of the Graduate School of Social Work
- the Faculty of the Morgridge College of Education
- the Faculty of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- the Faculty of the Daniels College of Business

*(Sample Title Page)*

Title of Dissertation (or Thesis)

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A Dissertation (or Thesis or Dissertation in Practice)

Presented to

(insert appropriate nomenclature)\*

University of Denver

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In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

---

by

Chris R. Doe

June 2021 (month and year of graduation)

Advisor: (insert advisor's name)

## COPYRIGHT PAGE

The copyright page is **optional**.

The essential components of the copyright notice are:

- copyright symbol ©, (note that the word "copyright" is not required);
- full legal name of author as it appears on the title page of your dissertation/thesis;
- the year in which the copyright will be established;
- Include "All Rights Reserved"; this clause supports your copyright under the Buenos Aires Convention, to which the United States and most Latin American countries belong.

The optional copyright page does not have a page number and is not counted in pagination.

### *Registering the Copyright of your Dissertation/Thesis*

The student has the right to have the dissertation/thesis copyrighted. UMI offers a copyright service to authors of all dissertations/theses it receives and will file on your behalf an application for registration of a claim of copyright on your manuscript so long as you authorize that application when you submit your document to ETD Administrator and pay the requisite fee. The charge for this service, which includes a filing fee and the cost of two positive microfiche copies to be deposited with the Library of Congress, must be paid in advance.

If you choose to have your dissertation/thesis copyright registered through UMI, your manuscript must contain a copyright notice.

*(Sample Copyright Page)*

©Copyright by Chris R. Doe 2020

All Rights Reserved

## ABSTRACT

The abstract is a brief descriptive summary of the dissertation/thesis. It should include a definitive statement of the problem, a brief description of the research method and design, major findings and their significance, and conclusions.

The heading on top of the page must be **single-spaced** and contain the following **exactly as they appear on your title page**:

Author:

Title:

Advisor:

Degree Date: (month and year of your graduation)

If you have delayed your graduation, please be sure to update this date.

The abstract must be **double-spaced**. It is recommended, but not required, that you limit your abstract to 350 words for a dissertation and 150 words for a thesis.

Because the abstract is included in front-matter, use a roman numeral (ii) as its page number.

The sample abstract page also demonstrates the minimum margin requirements for **all** pages of your dissertation/thesis. These margin requirements are not exclusive to your abstract page.

**Min. 1.0''**

*(Sample Abstract)*

Author: Chris R. Doe

**Min. 1.5''**

Title: Title of Dissertation (or Thesis)

Advisor: Advisor's Name

Degree Date: Month Year

ABSTRACT

**Min. 1.0''**

Type your abstract here. It should be double spaced, and it is recommended that it not exceed 350 words for a dissertation or 150 words for a thesis.

**Min. 1.0''**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

The table of contents is required for all dissertations/theses. Please double-space between chapter entries but single-space any subheadings within a chapter.

Your table of contents should fit within the minimum margin requirements and should include a small Roman numeral page number.

*(Sample Table of Contents)*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter One.....	1
Subheading .....	1
Subheading .....	1
Subheading .....	1
Chapter Two .....	2
Subheading .....	2
Subheading .....	2
Chapter Three.....	3
Subheading .....	3
Subheading .....	3
Subheading .....	3
Chapter Four .....	4
Subheading .....	4
Chapter Five .....	5
Subheading .....	5
Bibliography .....	6
Appendices.....	7
Appendix A.....	7
Appendix B.....	7

## LIST OF TABLES AND LIST OF FIGURES

If your dissertation/thesis includes five or more tables or figures, you must also include a “List of Tables” or “List of Figures” following your Table of Contents. If you are including both a “List of Tables” and a “List of Figures”, please ensure each begins on a separate page.

These should be formatted similarly to the Table of Contents by double-spacing between chapter entries but single-space any tables or figures within a chapter.

*(Sample List of Tables)*

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter One.....	1
Table 1.1 .....	1
Table 1.2.....	1
Table 1.3.....	1
Chapter Two .....	2
Table 2.1.....	2
Table 2.2 .....	2
Chapter Three.....	3
Table 3.1.....	3
Table 3.2 .....	3
Table 3.3 .....	3

## PAGE WITH A CHAPTER HEADING

For each page that begins a new chapter, please include a minimum 2-inch top margin. The other margins are consistent with the rest of your document.



**Min. 2.0"**

*(Sample Chapter Heading page)*

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION



**Min. 1.5"**

Begin the first page of any new chapter with a minimum of a two-inch top margin. The other margins are consistent with the rest of your document.



**Min. 1.0"**

1

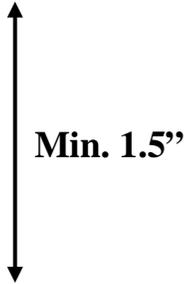


**Min. 1.0"**

## LANDSCAPE PAGES

The margins for the landscape pages should be meet the same requirements as when the page is rotated to portrait orientation. Page numbers should appear on the left-hand side of the landscape page (with a left 1-inch margin). The additional margins when the page is in landscape orientation include:

- Top margin: 1.5-inches
- Right margin: 1-inch
- Bottom margin: 1-inch



*(Sample Landscape Page)*



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