Alternate Thesis & Dissertation Formats
Manuscript Format Guidelines

In addition to the standard format for dissertation/thesis, the Graduate School allows for the use of an alternative format. The manuscript format refers to the use of articles and/or book chapters to replace the standard dissertation/thesis chapters. Publication of the manuscript(s) is not a requirement of this format. The following guidelines apply:

The manuscript format for dissertation/thesis shall consist of at least one (for Master’s degree) or at least two manuscripts (for Doctoral degree). The content of the manuscript(s) should be based upon research done at Iowa State University. The manuscript(s) can be previously published, to be published, or in preparation for submission.

The graduate student is to be the major contributor and writer of the manuscript(s), as usually represented by sole author. In the case of multiple authorship, the contribution of each author is to be detailed in the Introduction or footnotes.

The body matter for a Manuscript Format will vary but generally contains the chapters of the thesis or dissertation, in logical order, each with its own title. When manuscripts are included as chapters, the first chapter is always an introduction, and the last chapter, conclusions.

Chapter 1 Introduction & overview of the research

• sections as appropriate for the chapter

Chapter 2 Literature Review (optional)

• sections as appropriate for the chapter

Chapter 3 Title for Manuscript 1 (sections as appropriate for the chapter)

• Title
• Abstract
• Introduction (literature review)
• Materials and Methods
• Results
• Discussion

Chapter 4 Title for Manuscript 2 (see above)

Chapter 5 Conclusions

• Summary
• Overall model if appropriate (text or illustration if appropriate)
• Conclusions

References*

Appendices (as needed)

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*References can be listed at the end of each chapter. If that style is used, a complete listing is not needed at the end of the paper.

Journal Paper Format