

MANUAL FOR THE PREPARATION OF THESES
AND DISSERTATIONS

by

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas

To be used by students in the
College of Science & Engineering
Texas Christian University
as a guide for preparation of
theses and dissertations
for the degrees of
Master of Arts
Master of Science
Doctor of Philosophy

The page after the title page is intentionally left blank, *or* it may contain the copyright statement shown here. In either case it is unnumbered.

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2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Here the author gratefully acknowledges all the support and help received from various sources. It is usual to acknowledge the help of the major professor, at least, and any others the author wishes to include.

The page does not need to (but may) include the author's name.

The acknowledgements page may instead be a dedications page, or may be omitted entirely. Check with the graduate director in your department, however, since some departments require an acknowledgements page. If you intend to include such a page in your final work, it must be submitted as part of your review copy presented to the dean's office prior to your orals.

Note that this page is numbered "ii" since the previous page is unnumbered as is the title page.

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MANUAL FOR PREPARATION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

College of Science and Engineering

Friday, July 23, 2021

Section I: Procedures to follow for the final semester

- a. File an “Intent to Graduate” (available in the Dean’s office, 102 Tucker, or from the College website under <https://cse.tcu.edu/academics/graduate-student-resources.php>) during the first four weeks of the semester. **NOTE:** A graduation fee is charged when the “intent” is processed, not when it is filed. If you postpone your graduation, you must cancel the intent. You will need to file a new intent the next semester and pay the graduation fee again.
- b. Information and forms are found on the College website: <https://cse.tcu.edu/academics/graduate-student-resources.php>. Be sure to reference the calendar of deadlines. Graduation and Thesis/Dissertation Fees will be posted to your student account.
- c. Submit a completed draft of your thesis or dissertation to your committee for review.

All committee members must read the draft of a thesis.

At least three (but preferably all) committee members must read the draft of a dissertation.
- d. Prepare a revised draft incorporating all changes required by your committee.
- e. Ask your major professor to schedule the final thesis oral or dissertation defense and notify the Associate Dean.

Section II: Submitting final copies of theses and dissertations

- a. Send a PDF version of the entire completed manuscript (including vita, and abstract pages) to the Associate Dean’s office (t.barth@tcu.edu) for suggested changes and/or approval **at least five days before your final oral**. Any suggested corrections will be returned to you a.s.a.p.
- b. Make corrections called for by the college and your committee. Have the approval page signed by your committee members and bring the approval page to the Associate Dean’s office for final signature. The approval page may be inserted as an *unnumbered* page immediately after the title page in bound copies of the thesis. A scanned completed approval page can also be included in the same location in

the PDF file that you upload.

- c. Pay required submission fees once they are posted to your student account. Submit proof of payment to the Associate Dean's Office.
- d. If you interested in copyrighting your document refer to the information on the following web page <http://www.lib.tcu.edu/submit-thesis-or-dissertation.asp>.
- e. Send a completed *Survey of Earned Doctorates* form to the Associate Dean's office (t.barth@tcu.edu).

Section III. Manuals and formbooks

The College of Science and Engineering does not require all departments to use the same format. For general guidance on formatting, consult Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Because the thesis or dissertation should reflect the requirements of the discipline, documentation should be in accordance with professional stylebooks.

The Departments listed below have provided the titles of style manuals; if your department is not listed here, obtain the name from your director. In all cases the latest editions are to be consulted. The References section of this manual has complete information on these manuals as well as others you may wish to consult.

Biology	<i>Council of Biology Editors Style Manual</i>
Physics & Astronomy	<i>American Institute of Physics Style Manual</i> <i>Astrophysical Journal Style Manual</i>
Psychology	<i>Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association</i>

Section IV. Parts and order of the manuscript

A manuscript generally has three main parts: the preliminary pages, the text, and the reference material. The order of these is usually as follows:

The Preliminaries

Title page

One blank page or copyright notice if the dissertation is to be copyrighted (see preliminary pages of this manual)

Preface, including acknowledgments or dedication (optional)

Table of contents, with page references

List of figures, with titles and page references (if there are figures)

List of tables, with titles and page references (if there are tables)

(**Note:** All tables and figures should be embedded in the text of the document, *not* presented in a separate section at the end of the document)

The Text

Introduction

Main body, with the larger divisions and important minor divisions indicated

by suitable, consistent headings

Reference

Appendices

Bibliography (If the appendices are bound as a separate volume, the bibliography is bound with the text in the first volume.)

Vita (See samples in this manual.)

Abstract (See samples for heading. The original of the dissertation has an extra copy of the abstract and title page for use by University Microfilms, Inc. in the preparation of their publication, *Dissertation Abstracts*).

Section V. Manuscript presentation

The manuscript, as a demonstration of your ability in research, analysis, and effectiveness of expression, should have an appearance in keeping with such a document. Unsightly irregularities, such as handwritten insertions and obvious use of correction fluids or erasures are not permitted. Unacceptable manuscripts will be rejected by the college.

You are responsible for final proofreading. This is to be done before bringing it to the Associate Dean for checking (see II a). An indication that careful proofreading has not been done is cause for complete rejection of the manuscript and possible delay of graduation by at least one semester. Because it is difficult for proofreading to be done adequately by persons already familiar with the material, competent outside proofreaders are advisable, but you retain full responsibility for good proofreading and satisfactory correction, and you should wait until after your oral examination to make final corrections. In this way you will have a composite list of all corrections requested by your examination committee and the college.

Section VI. Official University copies in electronic format

The University does not require a bound copy of your Thesis or Dissertation. Instead you are required to upload the final version of your document to ProQuest/UMI in PDF format. In addition, the university requires you to upload a native (e.g. Microsoft Word) version of your document to a local TCU database. This copy will be used as a backup copy of your document.

Details on the UMI uploading process as well as details on font embedding etc. can be found at: <http://www.lib.tcu.edu/submit-thesis-or-dissertation.asp>.

In case you want to bind your own copies of your Thesis or Dissertation, this web page also contains information about suggested binderies and associated costs.

Section VII. Margins and spacing

- a. The text of the manuscript is double-spaced. Footnotes are single-spaced. Indented quotations may be single or double-spaced. Consult the approved

format for your discipline for additional guidance on spacing.

- b. The left margin (binding side) should be no less than 1.25 inches, and the top margin not less than 1 inch. The right and bottom margins must have a clearance of not less than .75 inch from the typed material. Any of the approved formbooks will give rules for margins well within these limits. Charts, maps, and other illustrative material must meet these margin requirements also.

Section VIII. Pagination

- a. Except the (possible) blank pages preceding the title page and following the approval page, the abstract pages, and the vita page, each page in the manuscript should be assigned a number. Header and footer margins for page numbers are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; i.e., there is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch margin between the page number and the top or bottom of the page. The page number is the only mark that should appear within the margins specified above in VIIIb.
- b. For the preliminary pages, small Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc.) are used. The numbering should begin with “ii”; the title page counts as page “i”, but the number does not appear. The blank page or copyright page is not counted or numbered. These page numbers are centered at the bottom of the page. Preliminary pages of this manual illustrate this.
- c. For the remainder of the manuscript including the text, illustrations, appendices, and bibliography, Arabic numerals are used. All pages are numbered, except the vita and abstract pages. Do not use letter suffixes such as 10a, 10b, etc. The numbering should begin with “1”, and run consecutively to the end of the manuscript. Page numbers should be placed at the right margin, consistently either above or below the text. If page numbers are above the text and the page carries a major heading, such as the first page of a chapter or of the bibliography, the page number may be placed at the center bottom. If the description of an illustration is too long to be placed on the same page, it should be placed on the preceding page, not on an unnumbered page.
- d. When the appendices are bound as a separate volume, this volume should contain a title page duplicating the title page of the textual volume, with the addition of the word “Appendices,” or similar descriptive words, just below the title. The pages of this volume are numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals, counting the title as page “1” (although the number does not actually appear on this title page.)

Section IX. Special pages

- a. Title Page: The title page contains: (1) the title, in capitals, double-spaced if longer than one line, (2) the full name of the student, (3) the degree or degrees held, (4) sources and dates of the degree or degrees, (5) the “partial fulfillment” statement, (6) the degree sought, the date the degree is to be conferred. These

details are shown on the sample pages (thesis, page 9; dissertation, page 10). Proper spacing is assured if the sample page is used as a guide.

- b. Table of Contents, List of Figures, etc.: The Table of Contents for this document is a good illustration of how these pages should be formatted. Page reference numbers should be placed using a right tab so that they align properly at the right side of each page.
- c. Vita: The vita page should be written in the third person, and should include: (1) personal data, (2) education, and (3) professional experience. The last line of the vita should contain the name of the typist, if the manuscript was prepared by someone other than the author. The vita may be written in either paragraph form or in an outline form as are professional résumés (see samples in the appendix of this manual). The vita does not bear a page number, and must not be more than one page in length.
- d. Abstract: The abstract page contains: (1) the title of the manuscript (all caps, single-spaced), (2) the author's name, exactly as it appears on the title page, with degree and year, and (3) the thesis or dissertation advisors name and rank (see samples in the appendix of this manual). The purpose of the abstract is to give a succinct account of the manuscript so that the reader will be able to determine whether it is advisable to read the complete manuscript. The abstract does not bear a page number, and must not be longer than 350 words for a dissertation and 150 words for a thesis.
- e. Approval Page: The approval page contains: (1) the title of the manuscript (all caps, single-spaced), (2) your name, and (3) a line for each committee member's signature plus one line for the college signature. The first line should be labeled "Major Professor," and the last line "For The College of Science and Engineering." These details are shown on the sample pages (page 7). Proper spacing is assured if the sample page is used as a guide. The approval page may be inserted as an *unnumbered* page immediately after the title page in bound copies of the thesis. A scanned completed approval page can also be included in the same location in the PDF file that you upload.

Section X. Special problems

- a. All special problems encountered in preparing your manuscript should be discussed with the Associate Dean prior to preparation of the final copy.

Appendix: Additional Sample Pages

Sample dissertation approval page: Submit the signed page after final approval of your committee to the Dean’s Office. This page can be inserted as an unnumbered page immediately after the title page in printed copies that you wish to have bound. A scanned completed approval page can also be included in the same location in the PDF file that you upload.

TITLE OF DISSERTATION
SINGLE SPACED IF MORE THAN ONE LINE
THIS TITLE MUST AGREE WITH THE ONE ON THE TITLE PAGE
AND MUST BE IN ALL CAPS

by

Your Name

Dissertation approved:

Major Professor

For The College of Science and Engineering

Provide the **exact** number of lines for your committee and the college signature.

(e.g., committee = 4
college = 1
5 lines)

Sample thesis title page

TITLE OF THESIS IN CAPITAL LETTERS
DOUBLE-SPACED IF MORE THAN
ONE LINE

by

MEGAN MARIE NALLEY

Bachelor of Science, 1997
Rice University
Houston, Texas

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
College of Science and Engineering
Texas Christian University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

Master of Science

August* 2019

*This date can only be May, August, or December

Sample dissertation title page

TITLE OF DISSERTATION IN CAPITAL LETTERS
DOUBLE-SPACED IF MORE THAN
ONE LINE

by

MEGAN MARIE NALLEY

Bachelor of Science, 2015
Rice University
Houston, Texas

Master of Science, 2017
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
College of Science and Engineering
Texas Christian University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

May* 2022

*This date can only be May, August, or December

REFERENCES*

- Cochran, Wendell, Peter Fenner, and Mary Hill, eds. *Geowriting: A Guide to Writing, Editing, and Printing in Earth Science*. Alexandria, Virginia: American Geological Institute, 1984.
- Council of Biology Editors Style Manual Committee. *Scientific Style and Format: The CBE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*. 6th edition. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- Day, Robert A. *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*. 4th edition. Phoenix, Arizona: Oryx Press, 1994.
- Hathwell, David, and A.W. Kenneth Metzner, eds. *Style Manual*. 3rd edition. New York: American Institute of Physics, 1978.
- Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. 4th edition. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association, 1994.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*. 6th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

* This section is usually titled “References” or “Bibliography”.

Sample vita, paragraph form

VITA*

Megan Marie Nalley was born November 29, 1975, in Huntington Beach, California. She is the daughter of Mason James and Beth Ann March. A 1993 graduate of Fountain Valley High School, Fountain Valley, California, she received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology from Rice University, Houston, in 1997.

After receiving her Master of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1999, she joined Belmont Labs, Inc., Dallas, as a chemical analyst.

In August, 2000, she enrolled in graduate study at Texas Christian University, where she received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2004. While working on her doctorate in Chemistry, she held a University Fellowship during the years 2000-2001 and a Teaching Assistantship in 2001-2002. Since January, 2004, she has been an assistant professor in the Chemistry Department at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls. She is a member of the Modern Chemist Association.

She is married to Brian Wesley Nalley of Dallas. They have one child.

This dissertation was typed by Ms Jean Stanley.
(Use this line only if the author is not the typist).

*The vita is limited to one page.

Sample vita, outline form

VITA*

Personal
Background

Megan Marie Nalley
Huntington Beach, California
Daughter of Mason James and Beth Ann March
Married Brian Wesley Nalley, May 24, 1996
One child

Education

Diploma, Fountain Valley High School,
Fountain Valley,
California, 1993
Bachelor of Science, Biology, Rice University,
Houston, 1997
Master of Science, Biochemistry, University of Texas,
Austin, 1999
Doctor of Philosophy, Chemistry, Texas Christian
University, Fort Worth, 2004

Experience

Chemical analyst, Belmont Labs, 1999-2000
TCU Fellow, Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, 2000-2001
Teaching Assistantship, Texas Christian University
2001-2002
Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Midwestern State University
Wichita Falls, January 2004-present

Professional
Memberships

Modern Chemist Association

This dissertation was typed by Ms Jean Stanley.
(Use this line only if the author is not the typist).

*The vita is limited to one page.

Sample abstract

ABSTRACT

TITLE OF THESIS OR DISSERTATION IN CAPITAL LETTERS
SINGLE SPACED IF MORE THAN ONE LINE
MAKE SURE THIS TITLE AGREES WITH THE TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGES

by Megan Marie Nalley, Ph.D., 2004
Department of Chemistry
Texas Christian University

Thesis or Dissertation Advisor: Name of Professor, Rank
examples: Ray L. Smith, Assistant Professor of Biology

Barbara C. Thomas, Associate Professor of Chemistry

Ernest Powell, Professor of Psychology

James Garin, Professor of Geology and Chair of the Department

Ellen Kessler, Professor and Jones Chair of Physics

The double-spaced text of the abstract goes here. The abstract may have multiple pages, but cannot be longer than 350 words for a dissertation and 150 words for a thesis.