# Thesis and Dissertation Submission & Formatting Guidelines

Tennessee Tech University
College of Graduate Studies

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October 2025



## Goals

#### **Overview**

 To provide an overview of the deadlines, formatting standards, and submission process and for theses and dissertations at TTU.

#### Consistency

 To promote consistency and professionalism in scholarly submissions.

## Agenda

**Overview & Deadlines** 

**Grad Studies Website** 

**Document Structure & Formatting Styles** 

**Page Examples** 

**Submitting to ProQuest** 

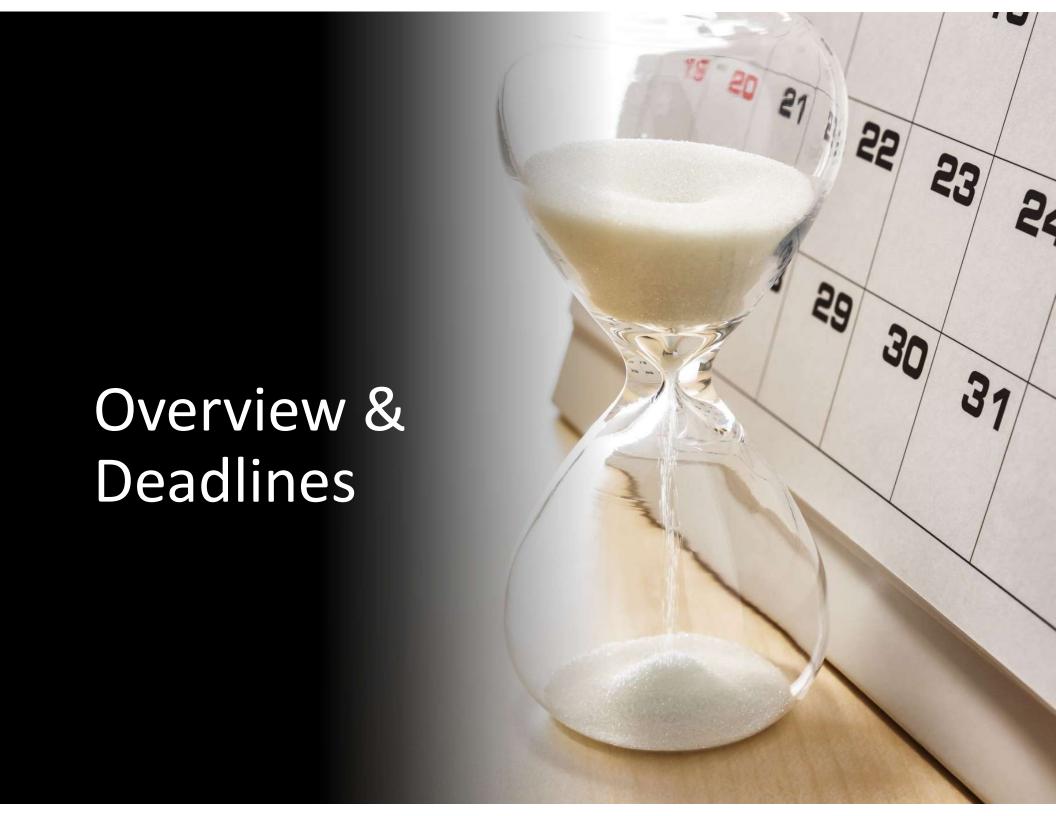
Copyright Info & ProQuest Help

**Review Process & Publication Timeline** 

Resources

**Final Tips** 

Questions



## College of Graduate Studies

## Calendar & Forms



#### College of Graduate Studies calendar:

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/gcalendar.php



#### College of Graduate Studies forms:

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/forms.php

Additional links & details may be in your graduation analysis email

### **Deadlines for Graduation & Thesis/Dissertation Process**

Friday, November 7	<b>Degree progression documentation</b> required for graduation (e.g., substitution forms, committee or candidacy forms, transfer forms, course validation forms, exception requests, reclassification to full standing forms, other requested documents, etc.), <u>if required</u>
Friday, November 14	Your advisor should submit the <b>Defense Results Form</b> to report the results of your thesis/dissertation defense
	<ul> <li>Make sure your defense is scheduled before this date to allow time for all signatures and submission to Graduate Studies</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>This form requires signatures from all committee members, your department chair, and your college dean</li> </ul>
Friday, November 14	Comprehensive Exam/Project Results, if applicable
Friday, November 21	Signed Certificate of Approval
	<ul> <li>This form requires signatures from all committee members, your department chair, and your college dean</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>A copy without signatures is included in your thesis/dissertation</li> </ul>
Friday, November 21	Committee-approved thesis/dissertation to ProQuest
Friday, December 5	Submit the final requested thesis/dissertation revisions
Friday, December 5	Remove "Incomplete" grade(s), if applicable
Friday, December 5	Submit Survey of Earned Doctorate (doctoral students only)
Friday, December 5	Graduation

Work closely with your advisor, and share a draft of your thesis/dissertation with your advisor for review.

Share your thesis/dissertation with your advisory committee.

Make revisions based on advisor and committee recommendations. This includes checks for grammar, formatting and spelling in addition to content. The draft may be refined several times.

## Specific Graduation Requirements for Thesis/Dissertation Students

- Pass defense
- Ensure your advisor submits your defense results form to Graduate Studies
- Submit Certificate of Approval form to Graduate Studies
- Submit thesis/dissertation to ProQuest
- Make any requested changes during the review process

## **Deadlines Overview**

Early in the semester

• Defense Prep & Defense

Deadline: November 14

• Defense Results Form

Deadline: November 21

Certificate of Approval (with signatures)

Deadline: November 21

 Submit approved thesis or dissertation to ProQuest

Deadline: December 5

• Finalize all requested revisions

## Publication

~2-3 weeks b/ Dec. 12-19 Dec. 5 later **Papers ProQuest** Graduation delivered to publishes **ProQuest** papers

## Website Tour

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/index.php

#### **College of Graduate Studies**



## Tennessee Tech Ranked One of the 250 Best Graduate Schools

 ${\sf Exceptional\ Programs} \leftrightarrow {\sf Outstanding\ Outcomes}$ 







https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/index.php

#### **College of Graduate Studies**

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

STUDENT FORMS

FAST TRACK

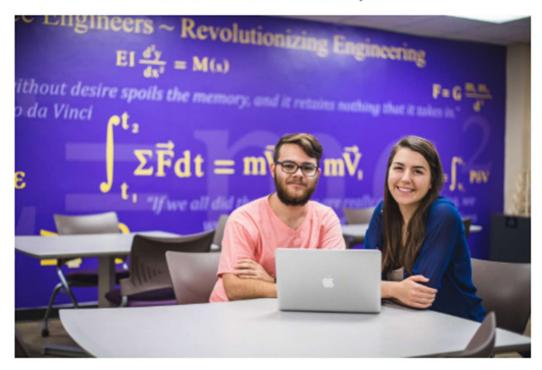
GRADUATE CATALOG

RESOURCES >

ABOUT THE COLLEGE >

#### **Resources for Current Students** — At Your Fingertips!

We have the answer or solution for you.



#### Resources

- > Graduate Calendar
- > After Admission Next Steps
- > NSF Fellowship NRT Program
- > FAQ's
- > Student Online Forms

- Graduation and Commencement
- > Fast Track Program
- > General Information about Services
- Graduate Assistantships
- > Eagle Empower Graduate Scholars Fellowship

> Department Contact Information &

#### Advisement

- > Thesis and Dissertation Information
- > Tuition and Fees

#### Fall 2025

Event	Date
- Summer/Fall 2025 Advisement Week (current students)	March 31 - April 3
- Summer/Fall 2025 Registration Begins	April 7
- Last Day for International Applicants to Apply for Fall 2025 Admissions	May 1
- Last Day to Apply for Fall 2025 Graduation	Sunday, June 1
- Fall 2025 Course Selection for State Employees Using a Fee Waiver and Disabled/Elderly Program Participants	July 24
- Last Day for Domestic Applicants to Apply for Fall 2025 Admissions	August 1
- Last Day to Apply for Readmission for Fall 2025	August 1
- New Graduate Student Orientation	August 14
- Advisement and Registration for Fall 2025 (new and readmitted students)	August 14-15
- Enrollment Confirmation Deadline	August 20
- Classes Begin	August 21
- Late Registration Begins (\$100 late fee)	August 22
- Last Day to Apply for Spring 2026 Graduation	Monday, September 1
- Labor Day Holiday (No Classes, Offices Closed)	September 1
- Last Day to Register/Add a Class - Last Day to Drop Without a Grade (Eagle Online Closes for All Schedule Adjustments)	September 3
- Thesis & Dissertation Information Sessions	October 8, October 9
- Fall Break (No Classes, Offices Open)	October 16-17
- Graduate Studies Information Session	October 7
- Fast Track Information Session (UG to GR program)	October 14
- Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of "W"	October 24
- Advisement for Spring 2026	October 27-31
<ul> <li>Last day to submit forms (e.g., substitutions, committee or candidacy forms, transfers, validation forms, exception requests, reclassification to full standing, or other requested documents, etc.) required for graduation (if applicable)</li> </ul>	Friday, November 7
- Registration for Spring 2026 Begins	November 3
- Veteran's Day Holiday (No Classes, Offices Open)	November 11
- Last Day to Submit Exception Request to Walk in Commencement - Last Day to Report Results of Comprehensive Exam - Last Day to Report Results of Thesis/Dissertation Defense	Friday, November 14

#### **College of Graduate Studies**

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

CURRENT STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT & FACULTY

ABOUT THE COLLEGE >

#### **Student Forms**

Welcome to the source for all College of Graduate Studies forms. If the form is not part of the DocuSign workflow process, the form should be completed and emailed to gradstudies@tntech.edu. If the items are sent by email, please note in the subject line what attachments are included.

If you have any questions, contact us and we will be happy to assist you!

- » Jump ahead a place on the page
  - > Admission and Readmission
  - > Admission Material
  - > Request Deferral
  - Readmission

- > Enrolled Student Forms
- > Changes/Modifications
- > Committee/Candidacy
- > Courses and Credits
- Defense & Approval Page
- > Exceptions/Reinstatement
- > Exit/Comp Exams
- > Graduate Assistants
- > Graduation Forms

- > Other
- > Graduate Faculty Forms
- > IRB for Protection of Human

#### Subjects

- > Program of Study
- > Certificates
- > Master's Level
- > Specialist in Education (Ed.S.)
- > Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- > Release of Records

#### Admission / Readmission

Ready to apply for admission to a graduate program? Before starting any necessary admission materials, you'll first need to fill out your admission application. If you have any questions, we're here to help!

APPLY NOW

#### Related forms

#### Defense: Thesis/Dissertation Defense and Approval Page

- College of Arts & Sciences Defense Form » This form must be submitted as part of the graduation process for COAS students.
- College of Education & Human Sciences, Engineering, and Emerging & Integrative Studies Defense Form (Docusign) »
- College of Education & Human Sciences, Engineering, and Emerging & Integrative Studies Defense Form (PDF) »
- Thesis/Dissertation Certificate of Approval Form »
  - IMPORTANT Please Read: Instructions for Certificate of Approval Form »
  - This serves as your committee's approval and states that your final, error-free dissertation has been or will be submitted to ProQuest.
  - This form must include all committee member signatures. (If you have 7 committee members, use this Defense Form for 7 committee members instead.)
  - Non-voting consultants do not sign any paperwork and are not listed on your Certificate of Approval.

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/forms.php

## Instructions for Certificate of Approval

#### **DocuSign form for signatures**

- See DocuSign Instructions
- Certificate of Approval with signatures
  - Form for up to 6 committee members
  - Separate form for 7
     committee members

#### Formatted copy w/o signatures

- See Manual Instructions
- Certificate of Approval to include in your paper

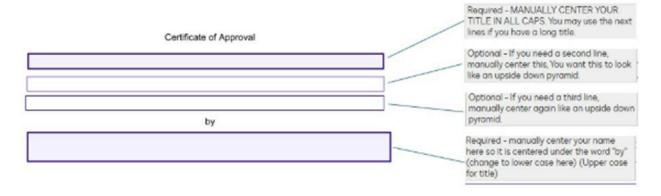
https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/approval.php

#### DocuSign Instructions

Enter your name and email address. Then enter the name and email addresses of your committee chair and committee members. Please make sure you spell all names correctly and use the correct email addresses.

Click the Begin Signing button at the bottom of the page.

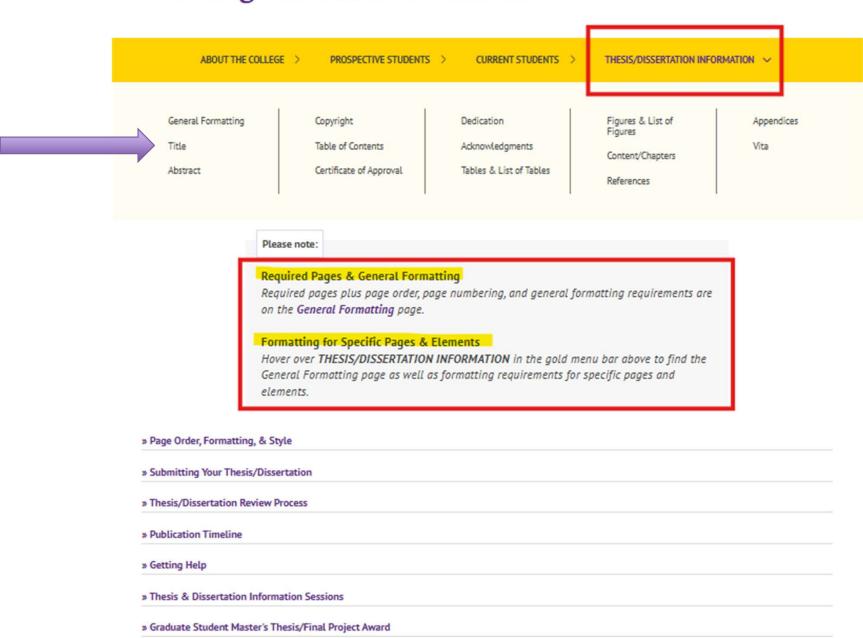
You must manually center your title (in all caps) and your name (as registered with the university). Follow the tooltips in DocuSign for each of the fields shown below. You can view each tooltip in DocuSign by hovering your mouse over the field.



Click submit. Your Certificate of Approval will automatically route for electronic signatures.

Your signed Certificate of Approval will be added to your graduation record and submitted to Tennessee Tech's Archives.

#### **College of Graduate Studies**



#### Theses & Dissertations: Abstract

The abstract must be a single page. The 7th edition of the APA Manual recommends that the abstract be limited to 250 words.

The entire page is single-spaced including the titles; since your entire document is set for double spacing, just highlight the text on this page and choose single spacing.

1. At the top is the page title:

For theses: 'AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS'

For dissertations: AN ABSTRACT OF A DISSERTATION

- 2. Leave the next line blank.
- 3. Enter the TITLE OF YOUR THESIS/DISSERTATION, which is centered, bold, and in all caps. Your title must also form an upside down triangle if it is more than one line. This means the first line is the longest and each consecutive line is shorter than the previous line.
- 4. Leave the next line blank.
- 5. Type your name as registered with the university, centered.
- 6. Leave the next line blank.
- 7. Type your degree title and the program, for example, Master of Arts in English.
- 8. Leave the next line blank.
- 9. Type the content following the general formatting except the paragraphs are single spaced with a blank line between paragraphs.
- 10. Add your abstract. Paragraphs should be indented.
- 11. Add your keywords (optional). Keywords need to be descriptive and capture the most important aspects of your paper. They are used for indexing in databases and as search terms for readers. You can include three to five words, phrases, or acronyms as keywords. Formatting should be as follows:
  - 1. Add a double-space after the body of your abstract
  - 2. Use italics
  - 3. Indent and type the label: "Keywords:"
  - 4. Add your keywords; each keyword is separated by a comma and a space
  - 5. There is no ending punctuation after the final keyword
  - 6. Keywords can be listed in any order (not necessarily alphabetical)
  - 7. if the keywords run onto a second line, double-space the two lines and do not indent the second line
- 12. The Abstract page will have the first printed page number "ii"; the title page is considered to be the first page, but it should not have a visible page number.

Example of Abstract with optional keywords:

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#### Theses & Dissertations: Content/Chapters

#### Headings

The heading styles listed here should be used throughout your paper, and headings are typically used to populate your table of contents. Follow these instructions to set up and label headings in your document.

There are six possible levels of headings described in the table below.

- · The title level is for thesis/dissertation titles and chapter titles.
- . Level 1 headings are for main sections within a chapter; level 2 headings are subsections of level 1; level 3 headings are subsections of level 2; etc.

Heading Level	Heading Example
Thesis/Dissertation Titles & Section/Chapter Titles	CENTERED, BOLD, ALL CAPS  OR  Centered, Bold, Title Case
Level 1	Centered, Bold, Title Case for the Heading  Next paragraph begins indented as usual.
Level 2	Flush Left, Bold, Title Case for the Heading Text  Next paragraph begins indented as usual.
Level 3	Flush Left, Bold, Italics, Title Case for the Heading Text  Next paragraph begins indented as usual.
Level 4	Indented, Bold, Title Case for the Heading Text, End with a Period. Next paragraph begins right after heading.
Level 5	Indented, Bold, Italics, Title Case for the Heading Text, End with a Period. Next paragraph begins right after heading.

Here are some heading examples:

#### Theses & Dissertations: Figures & List of Figures

#### Figures in your document

All types of visual displays other than tables are considered figures in APA Style. Common types of figures include line graphs, bar graphs, charts (e.g., flowcharts, pie charts), drawings, maps, plots (e.g., scatterplots), photographs, infographics, and other illustrations.

All figures should be labeled and formatted in APA style with numbering, title, notes, borders, etc. APA Style Figure Setup and Purdue OWL Tables and Figures have excellent guidelines on formatting tables and figures. Much of the information listed here is from from https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-quidelines/tables-figures/tables.

All figures will be listed in the List of Figures. See List of Figures below.

Figures in the appendix/ces need to have the appendix section and figure number. For example, Figure A.1, refers to the first figure in Appendix A (or in the Appendix, if you only have one appendix).

This page has two main sections:

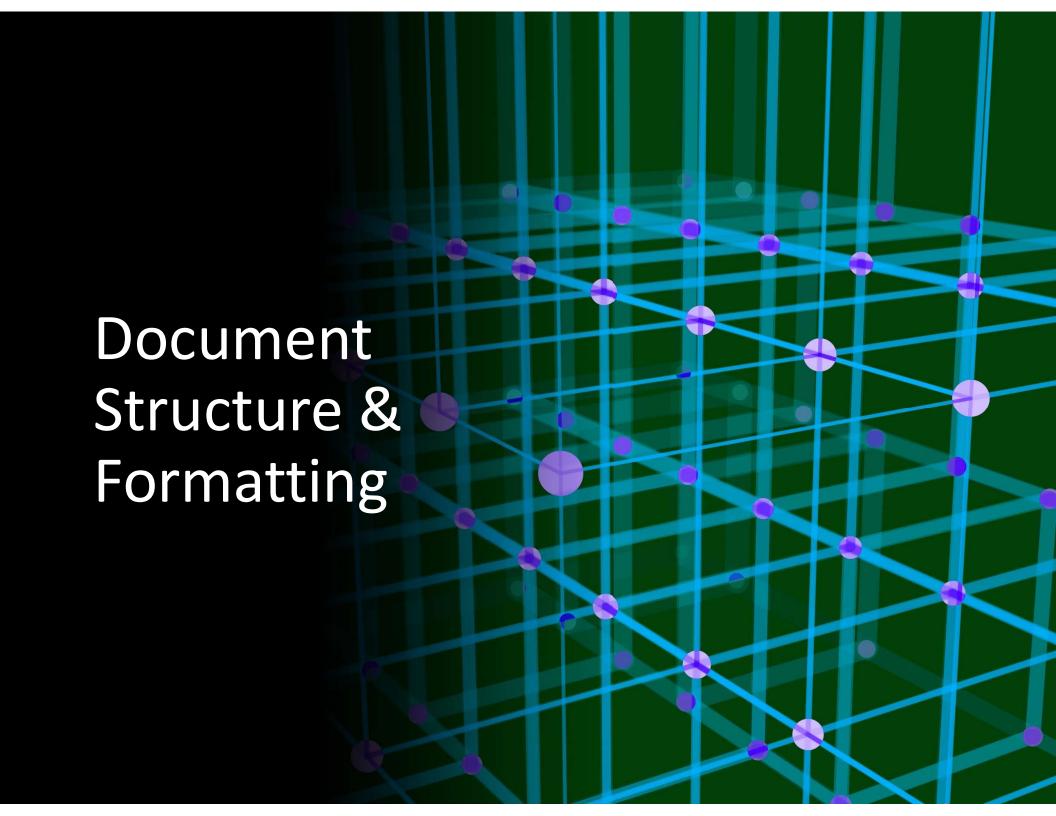
#### List of Figures

Figures: Formatting, Design, Components, Borders, Placement, Notes, Examples

#### List of Figures

This page is required if there are two or more figures in your document, including in the appendix/ces.

- Type List of Figures on the top line. Be sure to label this title as a page title heading to format it properly. See Content/Chapters for more information about headings.
- 2. Leave the next line blank.
- 3. Type Page (#), tab once, type Figure 1: Title of Figure One.
- 4. If your page number is a single digit, you will need to tab twice so that all figure names are aligned.
- 5. List each figure on a new line.
- 6. If your title is so long it goes onto another line, indent that line to match where all figure names start.
- If your title/caption is so long it goes onto another line, indent that line to match where all figure names start. If you have more than one page, do not split title/captions across pages.
- 8. If your list is more than one page, put a page title on only the first page.
- 9. If you have figures in the appendix/ces, be sure to add them on this list. Do not bold or italicize.
- 10. Do not use bold or italics.



# Formatting Changes for Fall 2025– 2026

## Title and Headings – 2 options:

- Bold, use all caps
- Bold, use title case

## Margins – 2 options:

- Use mirror margins with a 1.5" inner margin and 1" outer margins
- Use 1" margins on all sides

## Formatting Styles

#### APA 7

The default style is APA 7

#### LaTeX

- Usually used by engineering/science students
- Tennessee Tech's LaTeX manual and required files are at <a href="https://www.tntech.edu/cas/files/math/TNThesis.zip">https://www.tntech.edu/cas/files/math/TNThesis.zip</a>
- LaTeX will do most of the formatting for you
- Verify Title page and Certificate of Approval formatting

#### Manuscript & other approved styles

- Some programs at Tennessee Tech conduct research best presented as discrete journal articles rather than a continuous document
- Manuscript chapters may better showcase individual projects and streamline publication, aligning with the program requirement for students to submit a manuscript for publication before graduation
- For students approved to use a manuscript formatting style, refer to the guidelines at https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/pdf/etd/Manuscriptformattinguidelines-updatedFeb2025.pdf

## **APA 7 Style**

- APA 7 Style Manual
- APA Style
   https://apastyle.apa.org/
- Purdue OWL
   <a href="https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/apa\_style/apa\_formatting\_and\_style\_guide/index.html">https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/apa\_style/apa\_formatting\_and\_style\_guide/index.html</a>

## APA & LaTeX

Use the page order and numbering structure listed on the Page Order & Numbering slide

Source: <a href="https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/general.php">https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/general.php</a>

## Page Order & Numbering

Page	Page Numbering
Title Page (no printed page number)	Number is not visible but is assigned Roman numeral one (i)
Abstract (one page only)	Beginning of visible numbers Roman numerals (ii)
Copyright (one page only)	Roman numerals continued (iii)
Table of Contents (minimum of two heading levels)	Roman numerals continued (iv)
Certificate of Approval	Roman numerals continued (varies)
<b>Dedication</b> (optional, one page only)	Roman numerals continued
Acknowledgments (optional, one page only)	Roman numerals continued
List of Tables (required if more than one table)	Roman numerals continued
List of Figures* (required if more than one figure)	Roman numerals continued
Content/Chapters**	Beginning of Arabic numerals (start with page 1)
References	Arabic numerals continued
Appendix/ces (when applicable)	Arabic numerals continued
Vita (one page only)	Arabic numerals continued

<sup>\*</sup> Other approved lists (e.g., List of Acronyms, List of Abbreviations, List of Lists, etc.) go after the List of Figures.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Students approved to use manuscript-style formatting should follow the Manuscript Formatting Guidelines.

# Formatting Requirements for ALL Submissions

https://www.tntech.edu/graduate studies/etd/general.php

- All page elements are required (unless listed as optional)
- Use a readable, accessible font like Times New Roman (12 pt), Arial (11pt), Calibri (11pt)
- 1" or mirrored margins
- Left justify the body text
- Use the same page numbering:
  - Roman numerals for the front matter,
     Arabic numerals beginning with Chapter 1
  - Chapter 1 should start on an odd document page number
- If the title of the paper is more than two lines, the title should be in shape of an inverted triangle (each line should be progressively shorter)

### Formatting Requirements for ALL Submissions, cont.

- Use May, August, or December only, plus the four-digit year, for the degree conferral date on the title page
  - E.g., December 2025
  - Papers submitted for a summer graduation should always use August plus the year, even if the degree is conferred in July (for consistency across the years)
- Use the correct degree and major for the title page, abstract, and vita
  - Check degree block in Degree Works, e.g.,:



- The degree is spelled out on the title and abstract pages (e.g., Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Science, Professional Science Master's)
- Can include concentration information (if applicable) in vita

## Manuscript-Style Formatting

- The thesis/dissertation is a culminating student paper & still needs to look like a thesis or dissertation
- Use the same margin size, line spacing, heading style consistency, etc. at <a href="https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/general.php">https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/general.php</a>
- Page numbering
  - Bottom center of page (no page number on title page)
  - Use Roman numerals for the front matter, as shown on the Page Order
     & Numbering
  - The first page of Chapter 1 is page 1, and pages are numbered consecutively to the end of the paper (i.e., page numbering does not start over for a new chapter)

## Manuscript-Style Formatting, cont.

- All page elements are required as listed on the Page Order & Numbering slide
- Use the same page order, except:
  - Add a Preface before Chapter 1 or as part of Chapter 1 (if placed before Chapter 1, the page should have a Roman numeral page number)
    - What is a preface? <a href="https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/dissertation-preface-example/">https://www.scribbr.com/dissertation/dissertation-preface-example/</a>
  - References and Appendices (if appl.) can follow individual chapters instead of following the last chapter
  - Abstracts for chapters are allowed; however, a single abstract for the entire thesis or dissertation must be included as page ii of the paper

## Manuscript-Style Formatting, cont.

- Formatting for References, Tables, & Figures
  - Use ONE peer-reviewed formatting style approved by your committee (e.g., American Chemical Society journals, Journal of Wildlife Management, North American Journal of Fisheries Management)
- Tables/Figures
  - Can be numbered sequentially beginning with #1 in each chapter
  - Tables/Figures can be listed by chapter in the List of Tables/Figures

## Additional Formatting Considerations

Use caution with page breaks	Hard page breaks and using blank lines to move text to the top of next page can create unwanted gaps or cause flow issues as you revise your paper
Tabs	Indent all paragraphs Use standard .5" tabs/indents
Widow/Orphan control	Ensure no single lines are at the top or bottom of pages
Preserve your formatting when copying/pasting	If you paste something from another source, choose either "merge formatting" or "keep text only" to preserve your document formatting

# Additional Formatting Considerations, cont.

**Formulas** 

Use consistent position and spacing before/after Keep the formula within the margins

Tennessee Tech

Use the full name – Tennessee Technological University:

On the title page

The first time TTU is mentioned in the body of the paper

Tennessee Technological University then referred to as Tennessee Tech, or

Tennessee Technological University (TTU), then referred to as TTU

The first time TTU is mentioned in your vita

## **Tables and Figures**

Numbering Sequentially number tables and figures as they appear Use the same font as the main text (or use sans serif font if using serif Font & font for main text) Spacing Single-space content within tables and figures Refer to tables and figures by number (e.g., "see Table 4.2", not "in the Callout next table") Insert tables and figures after the paragraph where they are first **Placement** mentioned, if possible

### Tables and Figures, cont.

U

**Flow** 

A table or figure can be by itself on the page (the caption and any notes are on the same page as the table/figure)

Legibility

Can the reader easily read figure and table contents? If not, consider using landscape orientation or creating a supplemental file.

White space

Leave enough space between a table/figure and the main text so they are visually separated

## Formatting References



All references should be formatted/styled the same way

Hyperlinks should be formatted the same way (e.g., blue, not underlined)



Let DOIs (digital object identifiers) and URLs "break" naturally (do not use a hard return to split up the text)



Generally, references ending with a DOI/URL don't have periods, and the rest of the references end in a period

# Spelling

- American English spelling is preferred
  - "acknowledgments" not "acknowledgements"
  - "fulfillment" not "fulfilment"
- Merriam-Webster
   Dictionary/Thesaurus:
   https://www.merriam-webster.com/

# What's the most important thing about formatting?



### Consistency

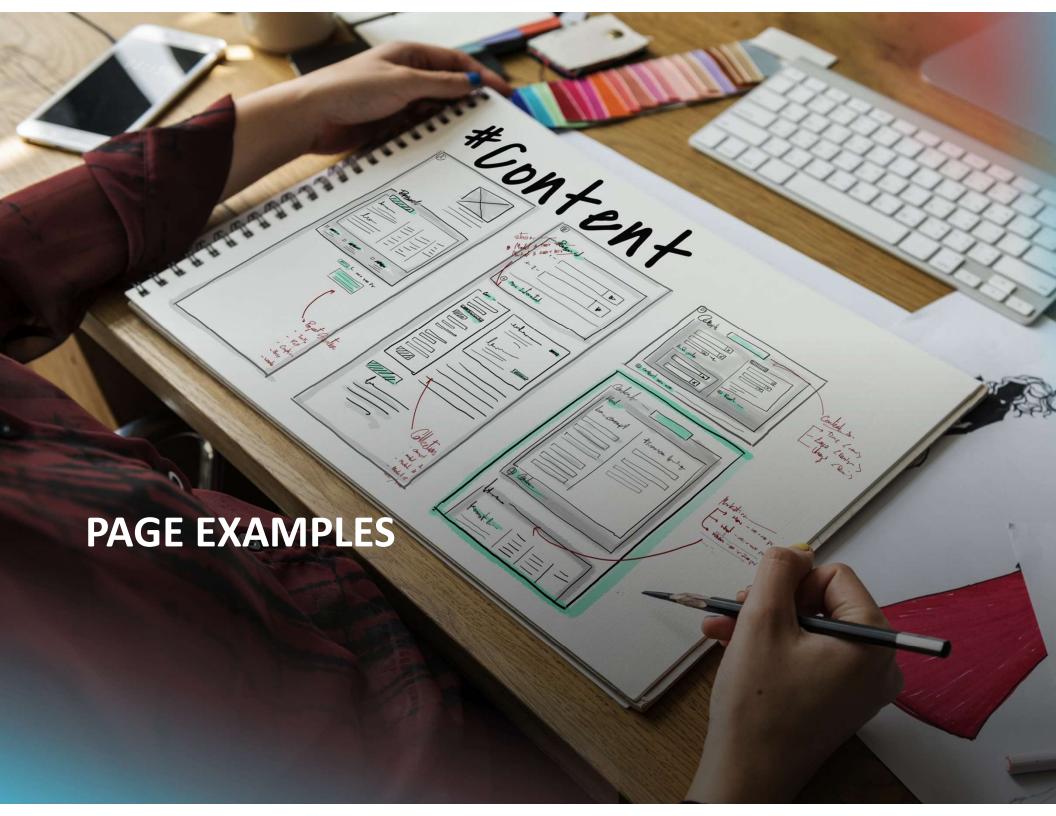
- Maintain uniform formatting throughout the document – font, spacing, tab size, heading style, spacing before and after headings or paragraphs, etc.
- Title, name, degree, and major should be the same throughout
- Try to use the same spacing before and after tables, figures, and stand-alone formulas
- Use the same formatting with your figures and tables. Examples of inconsistent formatting:
  - Some figure numbers listed with figures use Fig. 1 and some use Figure 1 structure
  - Some figure/table titles end with a period and some don't
  - Some figures/tables are centered on the page and some are left justified

# Before Submitting

- Update/refresh the Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Figures, etc. so page numbers are correct
- Double check the page numbers
  - No page number on the title page
  - Roman numerals for front matter, Arabic numerals from Chapter 1 to the end of the paper
  - sequential
- Use print view look for meaningless or unnecessary gaps in text or odd patterns

# Changes for Spring 2026

New federal requirements for document accessibility begin in April 2026



If the title is more than two lines, the title should be in shape of an inverted triangle (i.e., each line should be progressively shorter than the one(s) above. For section headings, use bold and all caps

The title name and line breaks should match on title, abstract, and certificate of approval pages

### THIS IS THE TITLE OF MY THESIS OR DISSERTATION AND IS LONG ENOUGH TO SHOW THE INVERTED PYRAMID STYLE REQUIRED FOR YOUR DOCUMENT

A Thesis or Dissertation

Presented to

the Faculty of the College of Graduate Studies

Tennessee Technological University

by

Sloan M. Parker

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the Degree

Master of Science

Mechanical Engineering

May 2025

Use name on record with TTU (at least first and last names)

### THIS IS THE TITLE OF MY THESIS OR DISSERTATION AND IS LONG ENOUGH TO SHOW THE INVERTED PYRAMID STYLE REQUIRED FOR YOUR DOCUMENT

A Thesis or Dissertation

Presented to

the Faculty of the College of Graduate Studies

Tennessee Technological University

by

Sloan M. Parker

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the Degree

Master of Science

Mechanical Engineering

May 2025

### **Underlined words:**

**NEW: Title case** 

for titles &

headings is

allowed

- the, by, of are not capitalized
- Use "Fulfillment" not "Fulfilment"

Use December 2025 if graduating this semester

# THIS IS THE TITLE OF MY THESIS OR DISSERTATION AND IS LONG ENOUGH TO SHOW THE INVERTED PYRAMID STYLE REQUIRED FOR YOUR DOCUMENT

A Thesis or Dissertation

Presented to

the Faculty of the College of Graduate Studies

Tennessee Technological University

by

Sloan M. Parker

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements of the Degree

Master of Science

Mechanical Engineering

May 2025

PhD's in Engineering – use:

Doctor of Philosophy Engineering

- Use your degree & major on the title, abstract, certificate of approval, and vita pages
- Only list your concentration (if you have one) in your vita
- Check Degree Works or your graduation analysis email for your program information, if needed

### AN ABSTRACT OF A THESIS OR DISSERTATION

### GUIDE TO THE PREPARATION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Jane S. Doe

Master of Arts in English

This guide is designed as a resource tool for students and faculty venturing into the thesis or dissertation process. The material presented is in the approved, required format allowing the reader to see a visual example as well as learn from the written instruction. It has been found that students have less difficulty with the development of the research paper and fewer corrections when provided with a clear and concise set of instructions that are easily followed.

Today's students tend not to read instructions but to imitate what they see. Unfortunately, detailed instructions for a properly formatted paper cannot be condensed like a Reader's Digest story. This results in a lengthy but informative paper to read. Students who followed the guidelines showed greater overall happiness during the review process as there were much fewer corrections noted by the College of Graduate Studies. The average student tends to have approximately five rounds of corrections and resubmissions. The student that follows the formatting guidelines and utilizes spell check in the word processing program tends to have an average of two rounds of corrections and resubmissions.

Keywords: keyword 1, keyword 2, keyword 3, keyword 4, keyword 5

Your title, name, and degree/major should match the information listed on your title page

You can include keywords in your abstract

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Certificate of Approval of Thesis or Dissertationv
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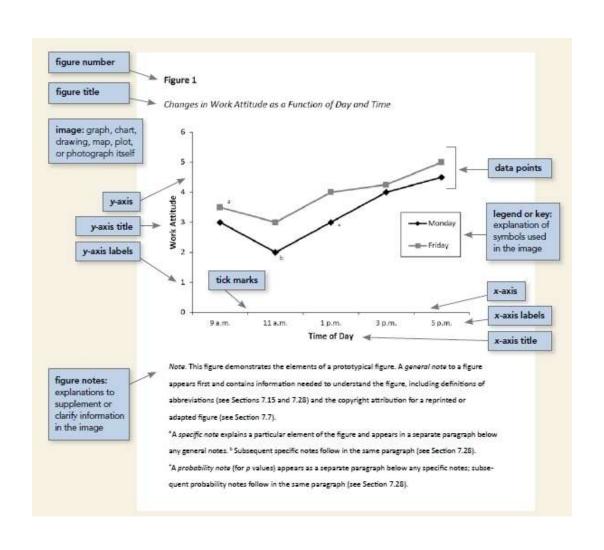
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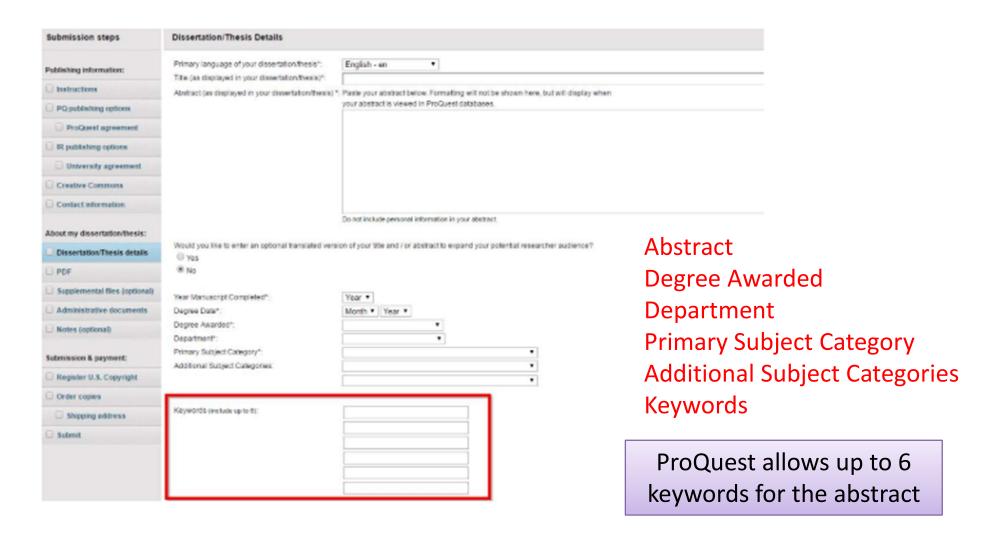
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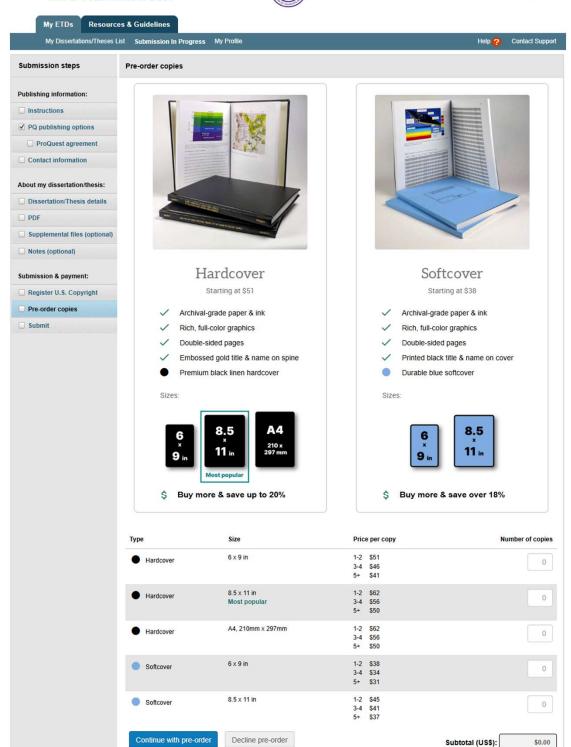
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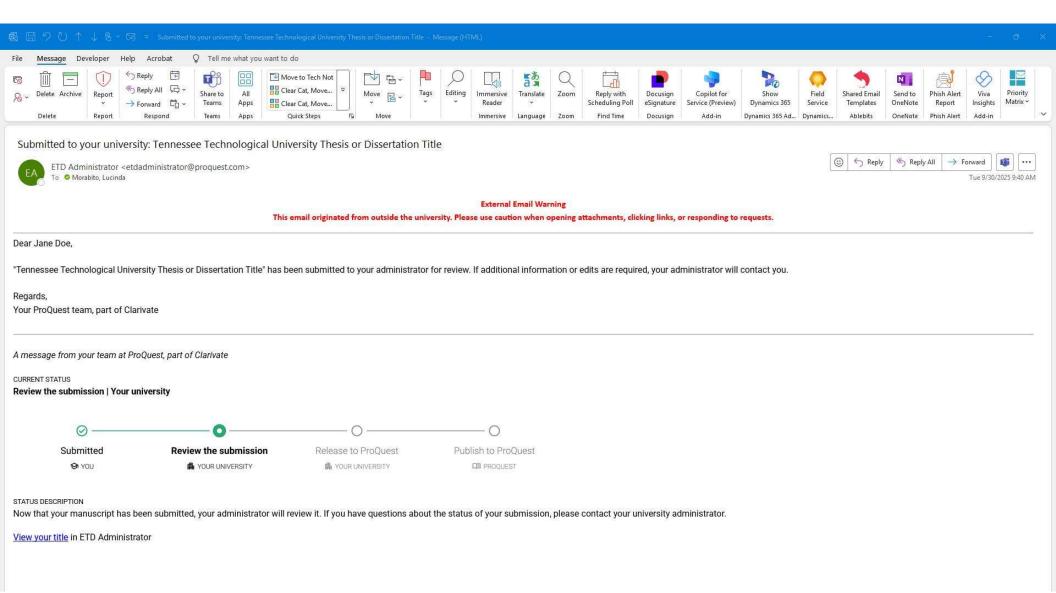




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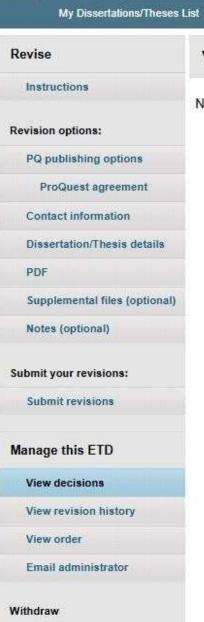
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   (https://pq-static-content.proquest.com/collateral/media2/documents/copyright\_dissthesis\_ownership.pdf)
- Why Copyright PDF
   (https://about.proquest.com/glob\_alassets/proquest/files/pdf-files/whycopyright.pdf)
- Copyright Laws Around the World PDF (https://about.proquest.com/glob alassets/proquest/files/pdffiles/copyrightlaws\_world.pdf)

# ProQuest – General Information and FAQs

#### **ProQuest Resources & Help:**

https://support.proquest.com/s/product/dissertations-etd?language=en\_US

#### **ETD Administrator: Frequently Asked Questions:**

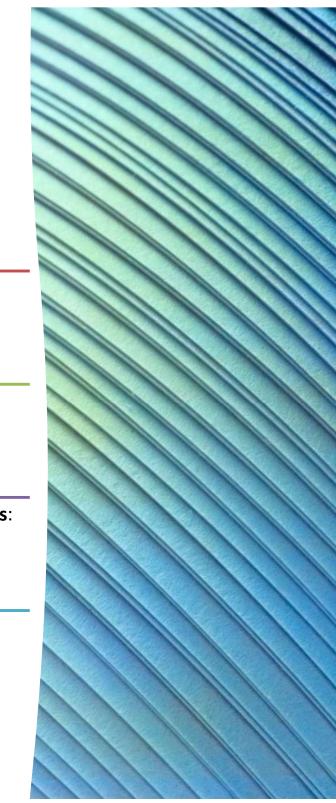
https://support.proquest.com/s/article/ETD-Administrator-Frequently-Asked-Questions?language=en\_US

#### ProQuest FAQ – General, Submission and Technical Support, and PDF Questions:

https://support.proquest.com/s/article/ETD-Administrator-Frequently-Asked-Questions?language=en US

Author FAQ - Submission and Discoverability, Publication and Embargoes, and Publishing Rights Questions:

https://about.proquest.com/en/dissertations/proquest-dissertations-frequently-asked-questions/proquest-dissertations-authors-frequently-asked-questions/#aPQpub



# ProQuest Contact

 Contact ProQuest at <u>disspub@proquest.com</u>



# Review Process & Publication Timeline



# Thesis/Dissertation Review Process

- Submit your paper to ProQuest no later than the date published in the Graduate Student Calendar (Friday, November 21).
- After you submit your thesis or dissertation to ProQuest, the College of Graduate Studies will **assign a reviewer** from our office.
- Our reviewers primarily check for required pages, correct page order, correct and consistent formatting, etc. We normally don't review your content, but we may also ask for changes within the text if anything questionable is noticed (e.g., a misspelling, incorrect tense, etc.).
- Depending on the length of your paper, time constraints for review, etc., the reviewer may request several rounds of changes. Our goal is to help you submit the most polished paper possible.
- Please monitor your email frequently for questions and requests for revisions.
- Requested revisions must be submitted no later than the date published in the <u>Graduate Student Calendar</u> (Friday, December 5).
- Please reach out to me, your reviewer, or <u>gradstudies@tntech.edu</u> if you have any questions.

# Revision Requests

- Comments are included in the PDF we upload to ProQuest when we request revisions
- Contact us if you have trouble finding/reading the comments
- Contact us if you have any questions
- Upload a revised PDF to ProQuest when revisions are complete
  - use the Submit Revisions options
  - Do not create a new submission

# **Publication Timeline**

- The College of Graduate Studies submits all papers for the semester to ProQuest at the same time.
  - This usually occurs approximately one week after commencement in Fall and Spring semesters or one week after the last day of classes in Summer semesters. This timeframe allows all degree requirements to be verified and degrees to be awarded before the papers are released.
- ProQuest will review your paper and contact you at the email associated with your ProQuest account if they have any questions or if any revisions are required.
- ProQuest's review process may take two weeks or more, and you'll receive a notification once your paper has been published.



# **RESOURCES**

# **Writing Assistance**

Your advisor and advisory committee member(s).

The Writing Excellence Studio
(WEST) offers free one-on-one
writing consultation by
appointment. They will not
proofread or make edits to your
paper, but they can help with
grammar, language usage, citation,
and other issues.

# Using Artificial Intelligence

- Follow advisor's instructions & advice
- Tech Policy 216 Student Academic Integrity:
  - https://tntech.navexone.com/content/dotNet/documents/?docid=1432&app=pt&source=browse&public=true
- CITL's Generative AI Citing Guide: <u>https://www.tntech.edu/citl/ai-citing.php</u>





# Volpe Library

Research Help (Eagle Search, Interlibrary Loan, Get It Now, Google Scholar, and more):

https://www.tntech.edu/library/research-tools.php

Please contact Holly Mills for research help with EagleSearch, Google Scholar, or InterLibrary Loan.

hcmills@tntech.edu 931-372-3544

# RefWorks

- RefWorks is a citation and research manager available to all Tennessee Tech students.
- RefWorks Help, Quick Start Guides, and Tutorials: <a href="https://refworks.com/RWShibboleth/help/508help/Welcome.htm">https://refworks.com/RWShibboleth/help/508help/Welcome.htm</a>
- The Volpe Library has information about creating a RefWorks account and more at <a href="https://www.tntech.edu/library/refworks.php">https://www.tntech.edu/library/refworks.php</a>

# Miscellaneous

## **Spelling**

Merriam-Webster Dictionary/Thesaurus:

https://www.merriam-webster.com/

### **Formatting**

APA 7 Style

APA Style: <a href="https://apastyle.apa.org/">https://apastyle.apa.org/</a>

Purdue OWL:

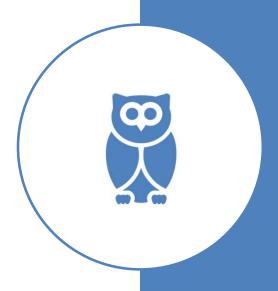
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/apa\_style/apa\_formatting\_and\_style\_guide/index.html

#### **Title Case**

https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/capitalization/title-case

#### **Questions**

Contact me: <a href="mailto:lmorabito@tntech.edu">lmorabito@tntech.edu</a>



# Final Tips

- If you don't graduate this semester, formatting requirements and processes may change (e.g., accessibility requirements are changing)
- Start planning early and consult your advisor/committee frequently
- Seek feedback from peers and advisors during the writing process
- Plan your defense as early as possible
- Review our online Thesis & Dissertation information: https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/index.php
- Use consistent formatting
- Double check page numbers, etc. before submitting
- Know what to expect before creating a ProQuest account (copyright, traditional or open access publishing, etc.)
- Respond to our requests and inquiries as quickly as possible

#### Karen Warren, kwarren@tntech.edu

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Engineering
- School of Nursing

#### Lucinda Morabito, <u>Imorabito@tntech.edu</u>

- College of Agriculture and Human Ecology
- College of Education and Human Sciences
- College of Emerging and Integrative Sciences

# TTU College of Graduate Studies

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(931) 372-3233	(931) 372-3809

#### **Thesis and Dissertation Information:**

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/index.php

#### **Graduate Studies Calendar:**

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/gcalendar.php

#### Forms:

https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/forms.php



# Questions