



Manuscript Formatting Guidelines

Thesis/Dissertations

Several programs at Tennessee Tech including Environmental Sciences, Biology, and Chemical Engineering conduct research best presented as discrete journal articles rather than a continuous document. Manuscript chapters better showcase individual projects and streamline publication, aligning with the program requirement for students to submit a manuscript for publication before graduation. The manuscript format also enables a more comprehensive dissertation and thesis because findings need not be abridged to fit a unified narrative. Recognizing the benefits of flexibility, the College of Graduate Studies has adopted manuscript-style formatting on a program basis. Your program must be approved to use this formatting option.

General formatting will adhere to existing standards as listed in the Thesis/Dissertation Handbook and website ([Thesis/Dissertation Formatting \(tntech.edu\)](https://www.tntech.edu/graduate-studies/thesis-dissertation-formatting)), including margin size, line spacing, heading style consistency, and continuous pagination. Specific manuscript format requirements are:

1. Chapters will comprise discrete manuscripts with the student as sole or first author ready for submission.
2. A thesis/dissertation with manuscript chapters must be thematically cohesive and must also include: (a) a Preface overviewing format structure, (b) An Introductory chapter that may include a literature review that defines the objectives of the research, as agreed upon by the committee, and (c) A concluding chapter that ties together the major results. Unavoidably, this will duplicate some of the introductory and concluding material in each article/chapter.
3. A single, standard peer-reviewed publication format will be used consistently across all chapters.
4. Examples of acceptable peer-reviewed formatting styles include, but are not limited to, the following: American Chemical Society journals, Journal of Wildlife Management, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, Cell, or Agriculture & Environmental Letters.
5. Individual reference sections will directly follow each chapter.

This format option upholds disciplinary writing rigor while better accommodating diverse research approaches. The College of Graduate Studies believes allowing this enhanced organizational structure is in the best interest of student scholarship and strongly recommend its adoption.