

Thesis and Dissertation Submission & Formatting Guidelines

Tennessee Tech University College of Graduate Studies

Lucinda Morabito Imorabito@tntech.edu

Agenda

Introduction

Deadlines

Document Structure

Formatting Styles

Formatting Details

Development & Submission to ProQuest

Review Process & Publication Timeline

Resources

Introduction

Purpose:

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

Importance:

 To ensure consistency and professionalism in scholarly submissions.

Deadlin	nes for Graduation & Thesis/Dissertation Process
Friday, April 4, 2025	Last day to submit degree progression documentation 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.), <i>if required</i>
Friday, April 11, 2025	Last day to submit the Defense Form to report the results of your dissertation defense
	• Make sure your defense is scheduled <i>before</i> this date to allow time for all signatures and submission to Graduate Studies.
	• This form requires signatures from all of your committee members, your department chair, and your college dean
Friday, April 11, 2025	Last day to report Comprehensive Exam results, <i>if applicable</i>
<mark>Thursday, April 17, 2025</mark>	Last day to submit the Certificate of Approval
	• This form requires signatures from all of your committee members, your department chair, and your college dean. Additional information about the Certificate of Approval is listed in the Dissertation Requirements section above
<mark>Thursday, April 17, 2025</mark>	Last day to submit the committee-approved dissertation to ProQuest
Friday, May 2, 2025	Last day to submit the final requested dissertation revisions
Friday, May 2, 2025	Last day to remove "Incomplete" grade(s), <i>if applicable</i>
Friday, May 2, 2025	Last day to submit Survey of Earned Doctorate (doctoral students only)



Grad Studies Calendar & Forms

College of Graduate Studies calendar: https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestud ies/gcalendar.php

College of Graduate Studies forms: https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestud ies/forms.php



Document Structure: 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)
<u>Copyright (</u> one page only)	Roman numerals continued (iii)
Table of Contents	Roman numerals continued (iv)
Certificate of Approval	Roman numerals continued (varies)
Dedication (optional, one page only)	Roman numerals continued
Acknowledgments (optional, one page only)	Roman numerals continued
List of Tables (when applicable)	Roman numerals continued
List of Figures* (when applicable)	Roman numerals continued
Content/Chapters**	Beginning of Arabic numerals (start with page 1)
<u>References</u>	Arabic numerals continued
Appendix/ces (when applicable)	Arabic numerals continued
<u>Vita</u> (one page only)	Arabic numerals continued

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

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

Formatting Styles

APA 7

The default style is APA 7.

LaTeX

- Tennessee Tech's LaTeX manual and required files are at https://www.tntech.edu/cas/files/math/TNThesis.zip
- Verify Title 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 <u>https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/pdf/etd/Manuscriptformattinguidelines-</u> <u>updatedFeb2025.pdf</u>. When you submit your manuscript paper in ProQuest, include a note in the comment box that you are approved to use the manuscript format.

Please indicate your formatting style in the comment box when you upload your paper.

Formatting Requirements for ALL Submissions

- For consistency across the university, all students should:
 - Use the same document structure, page order and page numbers regardless of formatting style
 - Type your title in bold and all caps (Title page, Abstract, Certificate of Approval)
 - If the title is more than two lines, the title should be in shape of an inverted triangle. For section headings, use bold and all caps
 - Use mirror margins with a 1.5" inner margin and 1" outer margins
 - Use page breaks to start a new page
 - Use the formatting instructions on our website for:
 - Page Numbers
 - Margins
 - Copyright page
 - Title page
 - Abstract
 - Certificate of Approval
 - Lists (when applicable)
 - Vita
 - DOIs (digital object identifiers) and URLs can be hyperlinked, but they should not be underlined; font color should be black

APA Style 7

Use a readable, accessible font like:

- Times New Roman (12 pt)
- Arial (11pt)
- Georgia (11pt)
- Calibri (11pt)
- Lucida Sans Unicode (10pt)

APA 7 Basics

Margins & Spacing

• Mirrored Margins:

- Top and Bottom: 1 inch
- Inner (binding side): 1.5 inches
- Outer: 1 inch
- Line Spacing:
 - Double-space main text
 - Single-space for figure/table captions

Alignment and Indentation

- Paragraph Alignment:
 - Left-align text; avoid full justification.
- Indentation:
 - Indent the first line of each paragraph by 0.5 inches.

- Follow the formatting instructions for specific pages at <u>https://www.tntech.edu/graduatestudies/etd/index.php</u>
- Do not use a running head

APA 7 Tables and Figures



APA 7 Table Example (detailed)

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allowing for further	5	301	260	306	221	the table body
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stub column or stub: leftmost column of the table; usually lists the major independent or predictor variables	table sp 3 4 5	201 214 221	 Wave 2 189 194 216 	210 236 239	199 210 213	intersection between a row and a column
	Total	636	599	685*	622	and columns of
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Source for detailed table: https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammarguidelines/tables-figures/tables

APA 7 Figure Example (detailed)

Sample bar graph

Figure 1

Framing Scores for Different Reward Sizes



Additional Formatting Considerations

Widow/Orphan Control:

• Ensure no single lines at the top or bottom of pages.

Hyperlinks:

- DOIs (digital object identifiers) and URLs can be hyperlinked, but they should not be underlined; font color should be black
- Let DOIs and URLs "break" naturally (do not use a hard return to split up the text)
- Do not add a period after links in the references
- For more information: <u>https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/dois-urls</u>

Consistency:

 Maintain uniform formatting throughout the document



PAGE EXAMPLES

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

Things to Remember

Use Tennessee Technological University on the title page and in the vita

Use the correct degree and major

Use May, August, or December plus the year for your graduation date on the title page

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

ProQuest allows up to 6 keywords for the abstract

The Certificate of Approval included with your Thesis or Dissertation will not be signed

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OF THESIS (or DISSERTATION)

THIS IS THE TITLE OF MY THESIS OR DISSERTATION AND IS LONG

ENOUGH TO SHOW THE INVERTED PYRAMID STYLE REQUIRED

FOR YOUR DOCUMENT

by

Jane S. Doe

Jackie Smith, Chair	Date
Haywood Brown	Date
Paula Ashley	Date
Priya Ranganathan	Date
Approved for the Faculty:	
Julie Baker, Dean College of Graduate Studies	Date

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APPENDIX: TITLE OF APPENDIX

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More Than One Appendix

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78

VITA

Sloan M. Parker was born in Orlando, Florida, on July 21, 1961. They attended elementary schools in the Orange County School District and graduated from Apopka High School with honors in June 1978. The following August they entered University of Florida and in August 1982 received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. They entered Tennessee Technological University in August 2023 and received a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in May 2025.



Development & Refinement

- Work closely with advisor
- Share a draft of thesis/dissertation with your advisor for review
- Thesis/dissertation is shared with advisory committee
- Advisor/committee provide recommendations for changes and/or additions (including grammar, spelling, and content). The draft may be refined several times
- Pass defense
- Submit thesis/dissertation to advisory committee for final approval

Next Steps:

- Submit Defense and Certificate of Approval forms to Grad Studies
- Submit thesis/dissertation to ProQuest



Plagiarism & 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

Citing Al

Prepare your Document(s) for Submission

- All papers need to be PDFs
- Fonts must be embedded (Instructions: https://support.proquest.com/s/article/How-do-I-embed-myfonts?language=en_US)
 - 1. PDFs
 - 2. Word
 - 3. Adobe Acrobat
 - 4. LaTeX
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- Upload size limit exceeded (25 MB?): Use reduce file size and/or optimize options.

Supplemental Files

- If supplementary materials—such as audio, video, images, and spreadsheets—are part of your dissertation or thesis, you can submit them as supplementary files.
- Upload supplementary materials as part of the submission process.
- When uploading a supplemental file, include a brief description and select the media type.
- Zip files:
 - Files over 10 MB
 - Large numbers of files; files that have a directory structure
- Do not embed media files in your PDF.
- Describe files in your abstract.
- Describe files in an appendix/ces.

Submitting Your Thesis/Dissertation to ProQuest

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Ownership, Publishing, & Distribution

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Select the publishing type below that best fits your interests and scholarly obligations. For assistance, consult your university and read our Publishing Guides.

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Integrity safeguard	Plagiarism protection through Turnitin	Plagiarism protection through Turnitin
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Select Publishing Type

Traditional vs Open Access Publishing

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From ProQuest ():

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Part 1

Select publishing option. Read and accept the publishing agreement.

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