



Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Thesis Guidelines

The following guidelines are specific to the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation. They do not supersede that which is outlined by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and University requirements as set out in the University of Alberta Calendar. As of April 23, 2014 multi-authored collaborative work requires inclusion of a Preface and a comprehensive bibliography¹.

FGSR requires that the thesis meet their formatting requirements in its presentation. Information on the academic requirements and preparation of a thesis can be found in the FGSR Graduate Program manual [<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/thesis-requirement-and-preparation>] and the University of Alberta Calendar [<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/GradStudies-and-Research/Regulations/204.4.html#204.4>].

Master's Thesis

For students in a master's degree program, the thesis, at a minimum, should reveal that the student is able to work in a scholarly manner and is acquainted with the principal works published on the subject of the thesis. As far as possible, it should be an original contribution.

<https://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/GradStudies-and-Research/Regulations/204.4.html#204.4>

Traditional Thesis

A traditional thesis is a multi-chapter monograph. It is preferred when the intellectual inquiry requires or demands a coherent document that provides a complete and systematic account of the research process, the findings, and their interpretation. The thesis is not likely to be published 'as is.' Nevertheless, the overriding principle is that the work carried out as part of the thesis can be adapted for scholarly publication.

The quality of the thesis and its substantial contribution to knowledge are important. The thesis must have been completed by the student in consultation with the supervisor and supervisory committee.

Paper-Based Thesis

A paper-based Master's thesis has emerged as a common alternative to the traditional thesis. One or more papers, each of which approximates a journal submission, are sandwiched between an introduction and a conclusion chapter. A thesis may also contain a book chapter(s), and/or a scoping or systematic literature review. The introduction should contain a review of literature with extended comments on related work thereby providing a rationale and context for the research question(s). The relationship(s) between the papers (if applicable) and major ideas or contributions should be summarized in the conclusion, and/or foreshadowed in the introduction.

The thesis is not likely to be published 'as is.' Nevertheless, the overriding principle is that the work carried out as part of the thesis can be adapted for scholarly publication. The quality of the thesis and its substantial contribution to knowledge are important. The thesis must have been completed by the student in consultation with the supervisor and supervisory committee.

¹ Draft 1: Presented to Graduate Program Committee June 8, 2015
Draft 1: Circulated for Research Area Specific Feedback Aug 17, 2015
Draft 2: Presented to Graduate Program Committee Dec 16, 2015
Draft 3: Presented to Academic Council February 1, 2016
Draft 4: Presented to Graduate Program Committee March 14th, 2016
Accepted at Faculty Council March 23, 2016

Sample Format for Traditional Master's and Doctoral Thesis²

Title page

Abstract

Preface

Dedication (optional)

Acknowledgement (optional)

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures of Illustrations

List of Plates

List of Symbols

Glossary of Terms

Chapter 1: Introduction³

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

Chapter 3: Method

Chapter 4: Results

Chapter 5: Discussion

Chapter 6: Conclusion

Biography

Appendices

² The sample format does not replace requirements set out by FGSR. Students are encouraged to consult FGSR Minimum Thesis Formatting Requirements found at <https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/thesis-requirement-and-preparation#Step 1: Format Thesis>

³ There may be variations in the names of chapters within certain areas of study (e.g., the Results chapter may be titled: Tales from the Field), and some chapters may be combined (e.g., Introduction and Literature Review). The intent of the sample format is to provide guidance to students and supervisors in the determination of minimal thesis content.

Sample Format for Paper for Master's Thesis⁴

Title page

Abstract

Preface

Dedication (optional)

Acknowledgement (optional)

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures of Illustrations

List of Plates

List of Symbols

Glossary of Terms

Chapter 1: Introduction⁵

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 3: Research Study (contains all elements of body of traditional thesis)

Chapter 4: Conclusion

Biography

Appendices

⁴ The sample format does not replace requirements set out by FGSR. Students are encouraged to consult FGSR Minimum Thesis Formatting Requirements found at <https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/thesis-requirement-and-preparation#Step1:FormatThesis>

⁵ There may be variations in the names of chapters within certain areas of study (e.g., the Results chapter may be titled: Tales from the Field), and some chapters may be combined (e.g., Introduction and Literature Review). The intent of the sample format is to provide guidance to students and supervisors in the determination of minimal thesis content.

Doctoral Thesis

A doctoral thesis, at a minimum, must embody the results of original investigations and analyses and be of such quality as to merit publication, meeting the standards of reputable scholarly publications. It must constitute a substantial contribution to the knowledge in the student's field of study.

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/about/graduate-program-manual/section-8-supervision-oral-examinations-and-program-completion/8-4-thesis-requirements>

Traditional Thesis⁶

A traditional thesis is a multi-chapter monograph. It is preferred when the intellectual inquiry requires or demands a coherent document that provides a complete and systematic account of the research process, the findings and their interpretation.

The quality of the thesis and its substantial contribution to knowledge are important. The thesis must have been completed by the student in consultation with the supervisor and supervisory committee.

The overriding principle is that the work carried out as part of the thesis can be adapted for scholarly publication.

Paper-Based Thesis

A multi-paper thesis has emerged as a common alternative to the traditional thesis, in which multiple papers, each of which approximates a journal submission, are used. The papers are sandwiched between an introduction and conclusion. A multi-papered thesis must reflect substantive work (beyond that of a paper master's thesis). The papers will typically address a unique objective or question and will form a coherent and integrated set of projects and outputs that have been outlined in the thesis proposal. A thesis may also contain a book chapter(s), and/or a scoping or systematic literature review. The introduction should contain a review of literature with extended comments on related work thereby providing a rationale and context for the research question(s). The relationship(s) between the papers and major ideas or contributions should be summarized in the conclusion, and/or foreshadowed in the introduction. The quality of the thesis and its substantial contribution to knowledge are important. The thesis must have been completed by the student in consultation with the supervisor and supervisory committee.

The overriding principle is that the work carried out as part of the thesis can be adapted for scholarly publication. Supplemental materials may accompany the thesis (e.g., DVD, URL to web-based materials) however; the papers must stand alone and be suitable for publication in scholarly journals.

⁶ FGSR uses the term 'thesis' for both master and PhD programs [<https://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/GradStudies-and-Research/Regulations/204.4.html#204.4>]

Sample Format for Paper Doctoral Thesis⁷

Title page

Abstract

Preface

Dedication (optional)

Acknowledgement (optional)

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures of Illustrations

List of Plates

List of Symbols

Glossary of Terms

Chapter 1: Introduction⁸

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 3: Research Study (contains all elements of body of traditional thesis)

Chapter 4: Research Study (contains all elements of body of traditional thesis)

Chapter 5: Research Study (contains all elements of body of traditional thesis)

Chapter 6: Conclusion

Biography

Appendices

⁷ The sample format does not replace requirements set out by FGSR. Students are encouraged to consult FGSR Minimum Thesis Formatting Requirements found at <https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/thesis-requirement-and-preparation#Step 1: Format Thesis>

⁸ There may be variations in the names of chapters within certain areas of study (e.g., the Results chapter may be titled: Tales from the Field), and some chapters may be combined (e.g., Introduction and Literature Review). The intent of the sample format is to provide guidance to students and supervisors in the determination of minimal thesis content.