

**FORMATTING THE THESIS AND PREPARING FOR FINAL DEFENSE**

**A MANUAL FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK**

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## Introduction

Preparation of a thesis is one of the most important parts of your work leading to a doctoral degree. This manual is meant to help you meet the required standard of organization, appearance and format for theses at the University of Rochester.

At the University of Rochester, the doctoral thesis is expected to be an original work by the student, formulated in a scholarly manner and with content of a quality consistent with respected publications in your field. Your thesis will become a publically available document that may serve as a reference for many years.

Many guidebooks and style manuals are available for dissertation writers. Consult with your school or department regarding preferred styles and writing guides for your field. Regardless of reference format and other stylistic differences, the basic formatting stipulations of this manual apply.

The registered version of your thesis to be used at the defense is not a draft. Although the examining committee may require revisions, the thesis should be uploaded for registration in final form. The associate dean, University Dean or appointed oral examination chair may turn back any thesis that is insufficiently edited or carelessly formatted, and the defense will be postponed. It is in your best interest to produce a polished, carefully edited and well-written document for evaluation by the dissertation defense committee and chair.

### **The PhD Thesis Registration Process: PhD Completion Website**

You, your program's graduate coordinator, or both of you together, will create your record in the University of Rochester Graduate Studies PhD Completion website. This record will include your degree information, past degrees, important contact information, and attachments, including the defense version of your thesis in pdf format and other relevant documents provided by your graduate coordinator. The version of your thesis attached to your online record is considered the registration copy.

Well before the online PhD Completion record is finalized (at least two weeks), you must provide copies of the thesis identical to the registration copy to all members of your committee in their preferred format. Some will accept a pdf, and others will choose a hard copy.

All of the members, except the chair, must have had the registration version of your dissertation for a minimum of two weeks before they are asked to sign off on the readiness of the work for defense. When the PhD Completion record is finalized by the graduate coordinator, committee members will immediately receive emails with links to access your record and approve your thesis to progress to defense.

You are also required to provide a copy of the thesis to the chair of your oral defense in his/her preferred format. The chair does not need to comment or sign off on the thesis during the thesis registration process but should have it at least two weeks prior to the defense.

There may be deadlines for registering your thesis specific to your school. Consult with your program's graduate coordinator to ascertain those deadlines and follow them carefully. Please plan the completion of your degree by following your school's deadlines in tandem with the PhD calendar.

After all committee members have given online approval, the faculty director of your PhD program and the graduate dean of your school, or similar official will approve the thesis for registration using the same online system. Then, requests for review and approval will go to the graduate studies office in your School and then

to the office of the University Dean of Graduate Studies. When all of these officials have approved your committee and thesis for defense, it is considered registered. You will be able to track these approvals in your online record and will receive a confirmation email when approvals are complete.

Staff in your school and in the University Graduate Studies office may make corrections to the pdf of your thesis as it goes through the approval process. All annotated copies of the thesis, along with the original version, will be stored in the PhD Completion website for you to refer to as you make final changes after your defense. You are not permitted to distribute updated versions prior to the defense, but you may make format changes to your personal version to achieve as close to a final version as possible (any such changes are not to be shared or used at the defense). The committee or chair may request additional changes at or before the defense that also should be incorporated in the final version when you are completing your degree requirements after the defense.

Be sure to incorporate all requested corrections in the final copy after the defense before uploading the dissertation or abstract to ProQuest®. If a comment about format is unclear, consult the office of the University Dean of Graduate Studies.

After the defense, if the committee has required major revisions to be approved by one or more of its members, it is your responsibility to provide the corrected final version for their approval. They will be asked to submit written confirmation of that approval to University Graduate Studies. Failure to do so could delay conferral of your degree.

After the defense, you will receive additional instructions by email for completion of all PhD degree requirements.

### **Date of Award of your PhD Degree**

PhD degrees are awarded by the University Board of Trustees on one of five dates each year – August, October, December, March, or May. On the title page of your thesis, use the year in which the degree will be conferred. This may not be the same as the year of your defense.

## **Formatting your Thesis**

### **Language and General Rules of English**

Your thesis must be written in English, except where the subject matter demands otherwise and an exception has been approved by the school's dean for graduate studies and the University Dean of Graduate Studies.

General rules of English should be followed, including:

1. Capitalize the first and last words of the title and all nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and subordinate conjunctions therein;
2. Use lower case for articles, coordinate conjunctions and prepositions (unless they are the first or last words of the title);
3. For hyphenated words in titles, always capitalize the first element. Capitalize the second element if it is a noun or proper adjective or if it has equal force with the first element (e.g. Twentieth-Century Literature);
4. Use the simplest possible scientific words or terms that are recognizable to those in your field. The title of your thesis will be accessed by search engines based on the words it contains. Lay persons within the University also will receive listings that include your thesis title. Avoid abbreviations, esoteric terms and jargon;

5. Specific rules apply to capitalization of non-English words including Latin words such as genus and species. Please refer to guidelines of your specialty for proper expression.

### **Page and Document Formatting**

The narrative of the thesis should be formatted for 8.5 x 11-inch paper in portrait format (text running across the shorter dimension of the page).

All margins must be at least 1.25" (one and one-quarter inches), including those on tables, figures, and appendices. Tables or figures may be printed in landscape layout (content running across the longer dimension of the page) if necessary. Landscape-oriented tables should be formatted with the top on the left (binding) side. The left margin must be at least 1.25 inches.

Page headers in the top margin may be used but footers in the bottom margin should not be used. The header font should match the font used in the text. Headers should be short enough to accommodate page numbering.

Font size must be at least as large as 10-point Arial or 12-point Times New Roman. Fonts in figures and tables may be smaller than 11-point, but all must remain legible when reduced to 50% size. Ultimately, you will upload a copy of your thesis to ProQuest®/UMI. Because ProQuest®/UMI produces printed half-size bound dissertations, it is important to follow the font size as stated above. In addition, color figures or plates may be included but should be interpretable in black and white if duplicated as such by ProQuest®/UMI

The front matter (abstract, biographical sketch, dedication, contributors and funding sources, table of contents, etc.) and body of the text must be double-spaced.

Long quotations set apart in paragraphs, figure captions, tables, figures and lists in appendices may be single-spaced. The bibliography or reference list may be single-spaced.

If any of your committee members request a paper copy of the thesis, it may be printed either single-sided or in duplex (back-to-back). It must be printed clearly on good-quality paper and securely bound in some manner unless the committee member requests otherwise. Do not use three-ring binders because pages can easily tear out.

### **Page Numbering**

After the title page, each page in the thesis, including pages with tables, figures, references and appendices, must include a page number.

The front matter (all pages preceding the first page of Chapter 1), including the title page, is numbered using lower-case Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv, etc.) The title page is considered page "i" but is the only page that does not include a number on the page.

The first page of Chapter 1 is page 1. All pages that follow, including the narrative, any figures or tables, bibliography and appendices, are numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Do not renumber from the start of each chapter.

Page numbers must be placed in the top margin of each page, either at the top right or centered. They may be placed outside of the required margins (between the required margin and the page edge) but should be at least ¼ inch from the edges of the page.

If you are including landscape-oriented pages, the page numbers must be at the bottom right corner and flipped sideways so when the thesis is printed, the top of the page will be the bound edge and the page number will read in the proper orientation.

The location of page numbering must be consistent. If it is not feasible to place the page number in a consistent location on the page, such as when a full-page glossy print is inserted or a landscape-layout figure is used, write the page number neatly in black ink in the same location as the text pages.

### Placement of Tables and Figures in the Text

Each table and figure must have a unique number and title and must appear on a numbered page, either alone or on a page with text. Table and figure titles must be identical in the table of contents list and the text. If it is necessary to have the legend on a separate page, it also must carry its own page number.

### The Order of Thesis Contents

The thesis must include the following components in the following order. Optional pages are noted. Instructions follow on format and content of several of these sections.

The page numbering scheme is provided as an example, but numbering should be adjusted based on the components included and the number of pages of each.

| Page Numbering | Content                                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| i              | Title page (counted as first page but no page number printed on page) |
| ii             | Dedication (optional)                                                 |
| iii            | Biographical Sketch (not to be called Curriculum Vitae)               |
| iv             | Acknowledgements (optional)                                           |
| v              | Abstract                                                              |
| vi             | Contributors and Funding Sources                                      |
| vii            | Table of Contents                                                     |
| viii           | List of Tables (when applicable)                                      |
| ix             | List of Figures (when applicable)                                     |
| x              | List of Schemes (when applicable)                                     |
| xi             | List of Symbols (when applicable)                                     |
|                |                                                                       |
| 1.             | Text of the thesis (starts on page 1 and is numbered as such)         |
| 2.             | Summary or conclusion (may be a section of the final chapter)         |
| 3.             | Bibliography or References                                            |
| 4.             | Appendices (when applicable)                                          |

## **Title Page**

The title of the thesis is typed in upper and lower case letters. Do not use all upper case letters. This is to insure that the words (such as proper names) within the title are capitalized correctly when listed elsewhere.

Do not include degrees or credentials of your advisor(s) and do not list other members of your committee. Committee members are listed in the Contributors and Funding Sources page.

The name of your department and school appear on the title page. If you are in an interdisciplinary program, list the program name rather than a department, followed by the school(s).

Provide the year (but not the month or day) of your degree conferral. If you will defend in the fall semester, the date of your degree is likely to be the following year.

## **Dedication (optional)**

This is a single statement on a separate page indicating an individual or group whom you wish to honor by the production of this work. If you include a dedication, it will be numbered as page ii. Acknowledgments are different; see below.

## **Biographical Sketch (not to be called Curriculum Vitae)**

Provide some basic facts about your scholarly life and career. These include the colleges and universities attended, the major fields of study at each, and the degrees and academic honors awarded. If you have relevant professional experience such as employment in your career field, you may describe it briefly. Follow this with a description of your work at the University of Rochester, including dates of residence, graduate programs pursued, name(s) of advisor(s), and all university appointments (e.g. fellowships, scholarships, research and teaching assistantships or traineeships). Do not include a complete scientific curriculum vitae or professional resume. Do not include future plans or employment.

Follow this narrative with a reference list of all works published or in review for publication during your time at the University, including content or results from the dissertation that have been published in full or in part. This listing may include publications mentioned on the Contributors and Funding Sources page.

The dissertation will not be approved if it is subject to governmental or other restrictions that limit freedom of publication.

## **Acknowledgments (optional)**

Acknowledgments are a statement of appreciation from you to others such as mentors, advisors, colleagues, friends and family, for their support during your doctoral study. Recognition of colleagues' or mentors' direct contributions to this work and of awards or funding sources that provided support for the work will appear in a subsequent section on Contributors and Funding Sources.

## Abstract

The abstract should present a brief summary of the thesis indicating the purpose, the procedures or methods used, the results or product that was produced, and the conclusions you reached. The abstract should be written very carefully and proofread by your advisor because it will be distributed worldwide by ProQuest® in the electronic database “Dissertation Abstracts International.” In print indexes produced by University Microfilms International (UMI), the abstract will be truncated at 350 words, so you may wish to use this as a length limit. Electronic listings will include the full abstract regardless of length.

## Contributors and Funding Sources

The thesis must include a page entitled “Contributors and Funding Sources.” In this section, name all members of the dissertation committee. Then, any collaboration with others in carrying out your dissertation research or in publications reflecting that research must be clearly described, and your independent contributions must be made clear. The sources of financial support for your research must be listed. If you completed all the work independently without outside funding support, indicate this here as well.

## Table of Contents

The table of contents must indicate the title and page numbers of the main divisions or chapters and the major subdivisions or subheading levels. The numbering and wording used in the Table of Contents **must match the numbering and wording of the titles and headings in the text.**

You need not include every level of subheading, but if you include any listings from a certain level, you must include all from that level. Levels can be indicated in the table of contents by indenting, numbering or both.

The bibliography and any appendices must be listed with their starting page numbers.

## List of Tables (when applicable)

If tables are included, all tables, whether on separate pages or included in pages of text, must be numbered and listed. Tables must be numbered uniquely and consecutively from beginning to end of the thesis. **Table titles listed must be identical to the titles used within the body of the work.**

## List of Figures, List of Schemes and/or List of Symbols (when applicable)

If photographs, maps, diagrams, graphs or drawings are included, a list with numbers, titles, and thesis page numbers must be included. If more than one category of illustration is used, provide an individual List of Figures, an individual List of Schemes and an individual List of Symbols, etc., each starting on a new page.

As for tables, figures must be numbered uniquely and consecutively from beginning to end of the thesis, and **figure titles listed must be identical to those used within the body of the work.**

A List of Symbols or List of Abbreviations may be included after the List of Tables and/or List of Figures. Provide, in alphabetical order, the abbreviations and the words they represent. Page numbers are not required.

## Bibliography or Reference List

Books, articles and other materials used in the dissertation should be listed according to the accepted bibliographic practice in the field of your thesis. A single bibliography at the end of the dissertation is preferred. If you list references or a bibliography at the end of each chapter, the first page of each should be listed in the Table of Contents. Bibliographies may be single-spaced.

Ethical scholarship requires that you show clearly the sources of the facts and concepts represented in your dissertation, whether published books and articles, unpublished historical documents or theses or personal communication with other workers in the field. The format of this documentation varies by field. Consult with your department and advisor for standard reference procedures in your discipline and apply them consistently. **Plagiarism, even if unintentional, can result in forfeit of your degree.**

### **Appendices**

Long or detailed tables, questionnaires, approval letters or other materials that are relevant to the thesis but are not necessary to understanding the text, should be placed in an appendix or appendices and listed in the Table of Contents. All appendix pages must be numbered and are to be included in the Table of Contents.

### **Previously Copyrighted Material**

If your dissertation includes any material subject to prior copyright, including psychometric instruments, poetry, fiction, images or figures, you **MUST** provide evidence that you have permission from the prior publisher to include them in your thesis. If inclusion is important, start early to secure permission because these will be required when uploading the final thesis to ProQuest®. If you do not have permission to use such content, eliminate it before final submission.

### **Plan Ahead for a Smooth Defense**

When you are preparing to submit your dissertation for registration, be sure to inform your graduate coordinator or program assistant of your plans well ahead of time. You also will want to take full advantage of internal reviews of the dissertation before uploading the thesis for defense registration, in order to minimize the number of errors in the registration version.

Pay careful attention to the five PhD degree cycle deadlines. These are timed to permit registration and defense before each of the five Board of Trustees meetings when degrees are granted (August, October, December, March and May). In each degree cycle, there is a deadline for the last day to complete your degree requirements, consisting of uploading the final abstract and dissertation to ProQuest®, submitting a UR Research authorization form, and completing two required surveys. There are no exceptions to the deadlines. If a deadline is missed, your name cannot be approved by the Council on Graduate Studies and presented to the Board of Trustees until the following degree date.

### **Preparing for Dissertation Submission to ProQuest®/UMI**

The University has a contractual arrangement with ProQuest®/UMI Dissertation Publishing for the on-demand publication of PhD dissertations and the electronic and print publication of PhD abstracts in *Dissertation Abstracts International*.

NOTE: DMA, EdD and DNP students should check with their schools for requirements regarding ProQuest®/UMI specific to those degrees.

The day following your successful defense, you will receive an email from the University Graduate Studies office with detailed information regarding all final degree requirements. It will be a stressful time, so be sure to carefully read through all the information and follow the instructions so as not to delay your degree conferral.

All PhD students are required to complete the ProQuest Dissertation Publishing Agreement on the University of Rochester ProQuest®/UMI web site. You may set up your online account before your defense so that you can familiarize yourself with the site and be ready to complete the process after the defense. Much of the required descriptive information can be completed before the defense, but do not upload the abstract or dissertation until after the defense when all corrections have been made and the document is finalized. The uploaded version must reflect all requested corrections from the committee and the graduate studies offices, and, if stipulated at the defense, must have been approved by the advisor or committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

Best wishes in completing your PhD requirements. We look forward to seeing you at Commencement!

## FORMATTING THE TITLE PAGE

Dissertation Title Typed in Upper and Lower Case Letters: Not all Caps or all Lower Case Letters

by

Your Name [no degree credentials]

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy

Supervised by Professor [Your Advisor(s)' first and last name-- no degree credentials]

(School Name and department or program, if applicable, centered on the page (see examples below))

Department of Chemistry  
Arts, Sciences and Engineering  
School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Arts, Sciences and Engineering  
Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

OR

Department of Music Theory  
Eastman School of Music

Health Practice Research  
School of Nursing

Education  
Warner School of Education

Business Administration  
Simon School of Business

OR

Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics  
School of Medicine and Dentistry

Program in Neuroscience  
School of Medicine and Dentistry

University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York

2015 (or year of degree conferral)

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Notes: No page number is printed on the title page but it is counted as page "i".

Primary advisor or co-advisors are listed, **not the entire committee**.

Preface the advisor(s)' name(s) with the applicable title such as Professor or Doctor.

Department name is listed if program arises from one department.

Program name is listed if different from department name or crosses departments.

School or schools are listed.

EXAMPLE OF  
Biographical Sketch

The author was born in [City, State, Country.] He/She attended [XXXX] University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts/Science degree in [major]. Provide a similar description for any Masters degrees.

Describe professional or career path prior to doctoral study, if applicable. He/She began doctoral studies in [field] at the University of Rochester in [year]. He/She was awarded a Name(s) Fellowship in 200X and 200X][if applicable]. He/She pursued his/her research in (subject area) under the direction of advisor(s) names(s).

The following publications were a result of work conducted during doctoral study: [list full bibliographic reference information in the format used elsewhere in the dissertation]

Publication A

Publication B

Etc.

---

Notes: If you have included a Dedication page, the Biographical Sketch is page iii. Otherwise, it is page ii. The Biographical Sketch is written in the third person. Do not include the anticipated date of your doctoral degree nor any future plans or employment.

## EXAMPLE OF

## Contributors and Funding Sources

This work was supported by a dissertation committee consisting of Professor XXXX [advisor – also note if co-advisor] and XXXX of the Department of [Home Department] and Professor(s) XXXX of the Department of [Outside Department]. The data analyzed for Chapter 3 was provided by Professor XXXX. The analyses depicted in Chapter 4 were conducted in part by Rebecca Jones of the Department of Biostatistics and were published in (year) in an article listed in the Biographical Sketch. All other work conducted for the dissertation was completed by the student independently. (If applicable) Graduate study was supported by a Provost Fellowship from the University of Rochester and a dissertation research fellowship from XXX Foundation.

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## ALTERNATE EXAMPLE OF

## Contributors and Funding Sources

This work was supervised by a dissertation committee consisting of Professor XXXX [advisor – also note if co-advisor] and Professor(s) XXXX of the Department of Home Department and Professor(s) XXXX of Outside Department. All work for the dissertation was completed independently by the student.

## EXAMPLE OF

## Table of Contents

Include your front matter with headings and lower case Roman numeral page numbers. Do not list the Title Page or the Table of Contents in the Table of Contents.

|              |                                                                               |     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction |                                                                               | 1   |
| Chapter 1    | Historical Value Theories and the Problem of Justice                          | 9   |
| Chapter 2    | Re-adjusting Utility for Justice                                              | 52  |
| Chapter 3    | An Adequate Axiology                                                          | 78  |
| Chapter 4    | World Utilitarianism and the Problem of Mediated Consequences                 | 119 |
| Chapter 5    | Intended and Foreseeable Consequences, Acquiescence, and Moral Responsibility | 156 |
| Chapter 6    | The Failure of Utilitarianism                                                 | 197 |
| Bibliography |                                                                               | 237 |
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**Note: Be sure to justify the page numbers either right or left. They must be lined up.**

## ALTERNATE EXAMPLE OF

## Table of Contents

Include your front matter with headings and lower case Roman numeral page numbers. Do not list the Title Page or the Table of Contents in the Table of Contents.

|           |                                                                                |    |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Chapter 1 | Introduction                                                                   | 1  |
| 1.1       | Motivation for this Work                                                       | 2  |
| 1.2       | Early Landmark Studies of Highly Vibrationally Excited Molecules               | 4  |
| 1.3       | Intramolecular Vibrational Energy Redistribution from Frequency Domain Spectra | 6  |
| 1.3.1     | Introduction                                                                   | 6  |
| 1.3.2     | Perturbation Theory Point of View                                              | 7  |
| 1.3.3     | Previous Spectroscopic Studies in IVR                                          | 13 |
| 1.4       | Spectral Congestion in IVR Studies                                             | 17 |
| 1.5       | Overview of Thesis                                                             | 19 |
|           | References                                                                     | 22 |
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| 2.1       | Vibrations in Polyatomic Molecules: Local vs. Normal Modes                     | 25 |
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## EXAMPLE OF

## List of Tables

(use the same format for List of Figures, List of Schemes and List of Symbols, if applicable)

| Table     | Title                                                                                                                                                                               | Page |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
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| Table 4.2 | Gas conditions for supersonic free jet expansion.                                                                                                                                   | 69   |
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| Table 5.2 | Fundamental frequencies (in $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) for methanol and isotopically substituted methanols in the gas phase.                                                                | 86   |
| Table 5.3 | Zero-point energies (from ref. 11) and relative populations at different temperatures for the for the different conformers of $\text{CH}_2\text{DOH}$ and $\text{CHD}_2\text{OH}$ . | 100  |