

# The 3 Article Dissertation<sup>1</sup>

## Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

This document offers an alternative to the traditional dissertation format; that is, a three-article format. While the format for the three-article dissertation is altered from the traditional, the expectations for a final and approved dissertation remain the same.

**Objectives** for a 3 Article Dissertation are:

- To support doctoral students who are interested in publishing their research prior to graduation;
- To offer the student guidance and mentoring in the publication of their research prior to graduation;
- To provide the student who is interested in pursuing a career in higher education an opportunity to add to their CV; and
- To assist the student in immediate application of their programmatic research foundations.

**Contents** of a 3 Article Dissertation

- Front Matter, in traditional dissertation format, to include:
  - a. Cover page
  - b. Copyright information
  - c. Dedication (optional)
  - d. Acknowledgements (Optional)
  - e. Abstract (synthesizing three articles and work as a whole)
  - f. Table of Contents
  - g. List of Tables (if applicable)
  - h. List of Figures (if applicable)
- Traditional Chapter 1
- Chapter/Article 1, to include:
  - a. Subsections of article (Introduction, Review of Literature, Method, Results, Conclusion)
  - b. Reference List
  - c. Appendices (if applicable)
- Chapter/Article 2, to include:
  - a. Subsections of article (Introduction, Review of Literature, Method, Results, Conclusion)
  - b. Reference List
  - c. Appendices (if applicable)

- Chapter/Article 3, to include:
  - a. Subsections of article (Introduction, Review of Literature, Method, Results, Conclusion)
  - b. Reference List
  - c. Appendices (if applicable)
- Traditional Chapter 5
- Back Matter, to include:
  - a. References
  - b. Appendices
  - c. Vita

## Requirements

- Articles should form a cohesive body of work.
- Selection of journals must be approved by committee.
- A proposal defense will be held to include Chapter 1, completion of the first article, and an overview of all three articles, emphasizing cohesion of the thematic focus.
- Articles must be of publishable quality though publication is not required for dissertation approval.
- The student maintains the responsibility for obtaining copyright permission for journals for article inclusion in the dissertation, noting that the dissertation will be available online.
- Overlap of content, particularly in the literature review is acceptable, but only if the student self-cites.
- Students will be first author on all articles. Dissertation chairs may be second author on the first article at the invitation of the student. The second and third articles must be single authored. Fellow students may not act as co-authors.
- The final defense will mirror that of the traditional dissertation.

For further clarification regarding The University of Tennessee guidelines, go to:

<https://gradschool.utk.edu/thesesdissertations/formatting/multi-part-theses-and-dissertations/>

---

<sup>1</sup> I would like to acknowledge The University of Texas at Austin and The University of North Carolina at Charlotte whose 3 Article Dissertation Guidelines provided guidance for this document.