

# INSTRUCTION

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## Faculty and Student Procedure

Faculty plays an active role in ensuring that graduate students implement the thesis guidelines. To ensure students graduate in a timely manner, the faculty chair of the committee should use these Guidelines to review the work of the student.

Faculty members of relevant thesis and dissertation committees have the responsibility for content, readability of text, citation completeness, and compliance with the citation style that is agreed upon within the committee and relevant University academic department. The responsibility is the committee members for the thesis or dissertation submitted as a final product in regards to intellectual material, citations, acceptable grammar, and completeness.

Students are advised that **it is the student's responsibility that the final document that is submitted meets the Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines.**

The Graduate School holds responsibility for seeing that final theses and dissertations meet formatting guidelines for completed final documents. These formatting guidelines include, but are not limited to, margins, line spacing, placement of figures and tables, pagination and page count, font size, and "front end material" (table of contents, figures, tables, etc). These updated guidelines are also posted to the Graduate School's website at <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/theses-dissertations/>

When a student is ready to submit a hardcopy thesis or dissertation to the Graduate School, they will need to complete and submit:

1. The intake form completed by the student. (See page 10).
2. The first checklist, "Forms and Procedures for Degree Completion Checklist" completed by the student. (See pages 4 and 5).
3. The "Thesis Guidelines Checklist" Completed by the student working with the faculty chair. (See pages 6, 7, and 8).
4. The "Signature Page for Faculty and Student" (See page 9).
5. A copy of the thesis/dissertation to be reviewed.
6. Doctoral students must complete the SED and submit with the paper for review.

Students will not be allowed to leave a copy of the thesis or dissertation with the Graduate School until forms are completed.

Additional guidance and instructions for completing the forms process:

1. In order for the faculty chair and student to complete the "Thesis Guidelines Checklist," the student is instructed to work with the chair of their thesis/dissertation committee to insure that the final document is complete regarding intellectual content, adequateness of citations, and overall completeness.
2. Once the student and committee chair complete and review the checklists, they need to sign the "Signature Page for Faculty and Student." (See page 9). Students are advised

that **it is the student's responsibility that the final document submitted meets the Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines.**

3. The student then submits the thesis/dissertation to the Graduate School with the intake form, both checklists and the signature page for faculty and student. If the paper is a dissertation, the student will also submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates.
4. The Graduate School will then check to ensure that the guidelines presented at the Graduate School website were used by the student.

After the Graduate School checks the thesis or dissertation for format, an approval or request for corrections email is sent. The paper copy may then be picked up from the Graduate School by you or your representative. A printed copy of the list of corrections will be included with this draft. A thesis may need revising, so allow time in your schedule to make corrections and for the Graduate School to check them.

- All corrections on the list of corrections must be made.
- The Graduate School requires the paper to be returned for a correction check if it contains format errors.

Papers submitted for rechecking will be reviewed in the order they are received.

Prepare the thesis in accordance with the instructions in these Guidelines and any departmental requirements. Use Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th ed. as a supplement. The most current edition of any style guide must always be used.

The Graduate School encourages faculty to work with their students and help them develop strong writing skills. As faculty read the initial drafts, they are encouraged to use a red pen to correct grammar and spelling errors.

If the student is struggling with their writing, encourage them to take advantage of the Writing Center in Room 102 of Clara Belle Williams Hall. <https://towc.nmsu.edu/>

Editing of the thesis/dissertation is the responsibility of the student. In cases where the student has writing problems, the faculty may suggest that the student hire someone to professionally edit the thesis/dissertation. The Graduate School does not have a list of thesis editors, but the Writing Center may keep a current list.

## Forms and Procedures for Degree Completion Checklist

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You must have completed the following forms and you must have filed them in the appropriate offices in order to satisfy final requirements for graduation. Graduate Student Services will examine and process your paperwork for the final degree check and the orals final defense. You may find this link helpful: <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/graduating/>

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enrollment in 1 hour (thesis) or 3 hours (dissertation).
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ensure you have paid your tuition to NMSU at the Business Office before the deadline (refer to the current Schedule of Classes for payment deadlines).
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Application for Admission to Candidacy (Program of Study for Ph.D.). File at Graduate School after you complete 12 graduate credits.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Application for Degree (Diploma) (\$35 filing fee).  
Apply online before the deadline at <http://my.nmsu.edu>
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ If you are a doctoral student, and want to partake in commencement, you must submit your dissertation title to the Graduate School for inclusion in the Commencement Program by the deadline. You can submit your title by completing the form at [http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2015/04/doctoral\\_dissertation\\_title\\_submission\\_form1.pdf](http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2015/04/doctoral_dissertation_title_submission_form1.pdf)
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Final Examination (Exam Form for orals or final defense).  
File the completed form at Graduate School 10 working days before the date of your orals/final defense.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Binding Fees are required for binding and microfilming. Pay the required fees at the Business Office. You can call (575) 646-3927 to charge to your credit card or you may pay the fees in person at the Business Office. You will be given a transaction number. Write it down accurately. You can pay the binding fees after your paper is approved for format if you wish.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ After your paper is approved for format from the Graduate School, you will need to complete the binding form at <https://liblc.nmsu.edu/thesisdissertation-binding-form/> You will need the transaction number from the cashiers office. Upon the successful completion of the binding form, the Information Service Desk in Branson Library will receive an email notification that the fee has been paid. Print a copy of the submitted form for your records. You should also print a copy for the library and take the copy with your papers when you are having them bound.

\_\_\_\_\_ Survey of Earned Doctorates (doctoral students only). You need to submit the SED when you submit your dissertation to be approved for format. You will find the link to the SED at: <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/theses-dissertations/>

\_\_\_\_\_ Doctoral Dissertation Agreement UMI/ProQuest Form (doctoral students only). This form is now online and can be completed by utilizing the link provided on the thesis and dissertation web page:  
<http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/theses-dissertations/>

Doctoral students **will no longer have to pay the \$65 traditional publication fee** to UMI/ProQuest for traditional publishing. If you choose open access publishing, there will be a fee you will pay to UMI/ProQuest via their website.

If you wish to copyright your dissertation, ProQuest will file for you provided you pay an additional fee on their website.

ProQuest also offers a service to provide personal bound copies for personal copies, but you do not have to buy your personal copies from ProQuest. There are other options available.

\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to the required number of copies, students may elect to retain bound copies of their thesis/dissertation for personal use. This is optional. If you would like personal copies through Book Binders of New Mexico, you will need to use the form below or on the thesis and dissertations webpage. You will make a separate payment for the personal bound copies when you take your papers to the library for binding.

Payment must be made with a money order or cashier's check. The amount changes depending on your needs for personal binding, and the form auto calculates taxes and the amount when the form is completed on a computer.

Supply payment for personal copies to Branson Library when you submit your required copies and personal copies for binding. The form for binding personal copies can be obtained at Branson Library or at the library website at:

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/services/documents/BindingPersonalCopiesForm.pdf>

All personal copies will be shipped from the bindery to the U.S. address that is indicated on the form. You may deposit the required copies and personal copies in Branson Library at the same time; however, keep the personal copies separate from the required copies (put them in a separate box or an envelope).

## Thesis Guidelines Checklist

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This checklist details the specific formatting, citation, and printing requirements that must be met in order for final theses and dissertations to be accepted by the Graduate School. As stated earlier, it is the student's responsibility that the final document submitted meets the Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines. The staff of the Graduate School will only be reviewing the documents to check for compliance, and staff will not perform copyediting of content.

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have read the Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines at <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/theses-dissertations/>
- \_\_\_\_\_ The style used in the thesis has been agreed on by all members of the committee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The style employed is \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All committee changes have been incorporated into the draft before submission to the Graduate School for format review.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The print is black laser print or comparable; dot matrix is not acceptable for any portion of the thesis/dissertation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The thesis is printed on only one side of the page and is not bound.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The font size is a minimum of 12-point. All page numbers are in the same font size and style used for the body of the thesis.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Left margin (binding side) is 1.50"; top and right margins are 1.25".
- \_\_\_\_\_ All numbered pages have page numbers on the bottom center of the page, 1 .0" from the bottom edge of the paper. The page numbers do not have dashes, hyphens or any other embellishment around them. All page numbers are in the same font style and size as the body of the paper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ At least .25" of spacing is between the last line of text on a page and the top of the page number. Page numbers do not overlap text, figures, or tables.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All landscape pages contain correct page numbers and page numbers appear in portrait position.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All required preliminary pages are included and follow the format of the example pages in the Guidelines. <http://gradschool.nmsu.edu/theses-dissertations/>
- \_\_\_\_\_ All preliminary page numbers are lowercase roman numerals and are in the same font size and style as the body of the paper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signature and date lines (for page ii) must be solid lines, not dotted or dashed or shaded and must end at the right margin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All subheads are included in the table of contents.

- \_\_\_\_\_ If subheads are used, there are at least two subheads at any given level.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All text lines (except block quotations and poetry) are double spaced (6 lines per vertical inch for single spacing; 3 blank lines and 3 lines of text for double spacing).
- \_\_\_\_\_ The text of the body of the paper begins with an arabic number 1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All chapters and chapter equivalents begin on a new page; subheads do not begin on a new page unless they would be the last line on the page (if this occurs then place that subheading on the next page).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tables and figures that are not my original work have a source note and those sources are included in the References Cited/Bibliography.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All tables, figures, and appendices are mentioned in the text before they appear and are mentioned in numerical (or alphabetical for appendices) order.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The captions for all tables and figures are listed in a list of tables and a list of figures that follow the table of contents page(s). The lists are included in the table of contents as the first entries. Figures and tables should also be numbered. In the case of a writing style that employs a decimal system of naming tables or figures, tables are numbered by the chapter where they are placed. For example, the first table in chapter 2 would be 2.1. The first figure in chapter 3 would be numbered 3.1.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Type size of tables must be large enough to be read when scanned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All illustrative material conforms to the requirements stated in the Guidelines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All citations in the text and, if applicable, in tables/figures have a corresponding entry in the Literature Cited/Bibliography.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Every direct quotation has a citation that includes the page number from the original source, or in the case of secondary citations, the source you actually read.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All reference entries are single spaced with a double space (press "enter" twice with your line swing set on single spacing) between each entry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All Literature Cited (or References or what you choose to use) entries are complete and in the proper format.
- \_\_\_\_\_ After your paper is approved for format at the Graduate School, the signatures of your advisor on all 3 (4 for molecular biology majors) approval pages (page ii) should be original. Your department head can sign your final binding copies for your advisor if your advisor is not available.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The final 3 (4 for molecular biology majors) binding copies will have the front and back fly leaves (blank sheets of paper) as well as all preliminary pages, text pages, and back matter duplicated on 25, 50, or 100% cotton white bond paper (20 or 24-pound weight) with a watermark.

\_\_\_\_\_ Written permission has been granted for inclusion of any material that is not my own (maps, pictures, tests, questionnaires, etc.) and is noted in the acknowledgments.

For master's theses, submit the permission letters with the required copies. Faculty must review theses and dissertations to ensure that they do not violate copyright protection laws. Please visit <http://copyright.nmsu.edu> for information on copyright and to ask a NMSU librarian a question about copyright. Stanford has a great website that explains copyright and fair use at <http://fairuse.stanford.edu>.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have printed and completed the Thesis/Dissertation Intake Form, both checklists, and the signature page for faculty and student. If I am a doctoral student, I have completed the SED and will present these items to the Graduate School front desk when I submit my thesis/dissertation for review.

## Signature Page for Faculty and Student

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As chair of the committee, I have reviewed both the “Forms and Procedures for Degree Completion Checklist” and the “Thesis Guidelines Checklist” with my student. By signing below, I am certifying the thesis or dissertation submitted is a final product regarding intellectual content, acceptable grammar, citations, and completeness.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Faculty Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Departmental MSC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
NMSU Email

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As a graduate student, I have reviewed and used the “Forms and Procedures for Degree Completion Checklist” and the “Thesis Guidelines Checklist” to insure completion of the thesis or dissertation. I have completed the suggested revisions of my faculty committee in the text of my document, and my paper follows formatting requirements listed in the NMSU Thesis/Dissertation Guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
NMSU Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

Please Select:	Doctoral Dissertation	Master's Thesis
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