

Section: Graduate Student Policies

Policy Number: 710.1

Subject: Multiple Paper Dissertation Policy

Effective Date: Month Date, Year

Department of Psychology

Multiple Paper Dissertation (MPD) Policy

This policy outlines the framework for proposing and defending an MPD. The doctoral supervisory committee is responsible for approving the dissertation proposal, supervising the student's research and preparation of the dissertation, and conducts the final oral examination.

For MPDs, it is important to have a transparent process that all committee members and the student agree on as early in the process as possible. Each proposal will have a unique structure. Therefore, the details need to be discussed earlier and in a greater level of detail than a proposal in traditional monograph format.

At the earliest possible time, students planning to pursue an MPD should meet with each potential committee member during a planning meeting to provide an overview of which projects the student wishes be included in their MPD. The overview should specifically outline what stage the projects are in development (e.g., planning, execution, writing, submitted, published).

If a faculty member objects to a component of the project (e.g., inclusion of an already published paper; use of a bulleted introduction vs a narrative introduction), they should ask the student to make changes prior to signing the document. The committee member should not sign the attached agreement until they agree with each component of the proposal.

All faculty members must sign the MPD proposal approval form **before** the proposal meeting can be scheduled. Any changes in the status and/or content of any included project(s) between the planning meeting and dissertation proposal meeting must be approved by all committee members. Before a proposal meeting can be set, a fully approved MPD form must be completed and submitted to the major advisor.

As with any dissertation, potential committee members have the right to decline to participate. If a committee member does not agree with specific components of the suggested MPD and these components cannot be changed, the committee member may elect not to serve. They may first suggest changes to the proposed set of studies, but if these changes cannot be made, an alternate committee member may be required.

Required Components of Proposal Document (30-page limit is waived for MPD)

Preliminary Pages: The title, table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, and an inclusive abstract (abstract for the full MPD) will use the same formatting requirements as a monograph dissertation format.

Introductory Chapter: Chapter I provides the foundation for a coherent set of studies. Essentially, Chapter I functions as an overview chapter that makes a convincing argument for the collection of studies to be proposed. There is no page limit for this section, but the review must be sufficient to provide a solid rationale for the program of research.

Subsequent Chapters (2 to 4 manuscripts): At minimum, each chapter should contain a literature review for the specific study and a complete methods section. Manuscripts that are complete/published should be included in the proposal document in their final manuscript form with information about publication status provided. At least one of the studies must be in process, rather than complete/published.

Any published papers that are included in an MPD should be first-authored by the doctoral candidate.

Published theses/second year projects may not be included in an MPD.

Required Components of Defense Document (30-page limit is waived for MPD)

Preliminary Pages: The title, table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, and an inclusive abstract (abstract for the full MPD) will use the same formatting requirements as a monograph dissertation format.

Introductory Chapter: Chapter I provides the foundation for a coherent set of studies. Essentially, Chapter I functions as an overview chapter that makes a convincing argument for the collection of studies to be proposed. There is no page limit for this section, but the review must be sufficient to provide a solid rationale for the program of research.

Subsequent Chapters (2 to 4 manuscripts): Completed studies should be included for each of the proposed projects. If the MPD proposed two studies, two chapters that include an abstract, introduction, method, results, and discussion should be included. Figures, tables, and references should also be included for each chapter. If the project has been published, the student can include a PDF of the accepted paper.

Final chapter. A final chapter should summarize the overall findings of the MPD. The final chapter serves as the alternate bookend to the introductory chapter.

USU School of Graduate Studies Policy

A multiple-paper thesis/dissertation must contain reports (a minimum of TWO) of research that have conceptual coherence. The thesis/dissertation must have:

- 1) an inclusive abstract;

- 2) an introductory chapter that sets the context for the thematic research;
- and
- 3) a summary and conclusions chapter that integrates all of the studies.

Department of Psychology

AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOCTORAL COMMITTEE AND STUDENT FOR MULTI-PAPER DISSERTATION

The goal of this form is to facilitate communication between the graduate student and the dissertation committee regarding the content of a multiple paper dissertation. The faculty member signatures indicate understanding and endorsement of the student's plans for the proposal and the final dissertation. Please provide information on the 2-4 studies and approximate number of manuscript pages of your proposal.

Date:

Student name:

Dissertation chair:

Dissertation title:

Number of papers to be included:

Title of paper 1:

Authors:

Type of project (i.e., empirical study, conceptual paper, systematic review, meta-analysis):

Status of paper (i.e., planning, execution, writing, submitted, published):

Suggested format (e.g., narrative introduction, bulleted introduction):

Summary of research questions (100 words or less):

Number of manuscript pages (excluding references):

Title of paper 2:

Authors:

Type of project (i.e., research study, conceptual paper):

Status of paper (i.e., planning, execution, writing, submitted, published):

Suggested format (e.g., narrative introduction, bulleted introduction):

Summary of research questions (100 words or less):

Number of manuscript pages (excluding references):

Copy above for papers 3 and 4 if needed.

By signing you are indicating you agree to this general plan for a multi-paper dissertation proposal. This document will be routed for signatures from all committee members and the student.

Chairperson

Member 2

Member 3

Member 4

Outside Member