

## **Alternate Thesis & Dissertation Formats**

### **Manuscript Format Guidelines**

In addition to the standard format for dissertation/thesis, the Graduate School allows for the use of an alternative format. The manuscript format refers to the use of articles and/or book chapters to replace the standard dissertation/thesis chapters. Publication of the manuscript(s) is not a requirement of this format. The following guidelines apply:

The manuscript format for dissertation/thesis shall consist of at least one (for Master's degree) or at least two manuscripts (for Doctoral degree). The content of the manuscript(s) should be based upon research done at Virginia Tech. The manuscript(s) can be previously published, to be published, or in preparation for submission.

The graduate student is to be the major contributor and writer of the manuscript(s), as usually represented by sole author. In the case of multiple authorship, the contribution of each author is to be detailed in the Introduction or separate Attribution section.

The graduate student is to provide the Graduate School with a letter of copyright release for previously published & copyrighted material. Whether previously published or to be reviewed, the manuscript shall be formatted to fit within the margins acceptable by the Graduate School and satisfy all requirements for submission in ETD format.

Section about Manuscript format from Appendix I of the Graduate Catalog entitled Preparation of Dissertation or Thesis. Note: This needs to be a separate section.

The body matter for a Manuscript Format will vary but generally contains the chapters of the thesis or dissertation, in logical order, each with its own title. Chapters may, but are not required to, include:

Chapter 1 Introduction & overview of the research

- sections as appropriate for the chapter

Chapter 2 Literature Review (optional)

- sections as appropriate for the chapter

Chapter 3 Title for Manuscript 1 (sections as appropriate for the chapter)

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction (literature review)
- Materials and Methods
- Results
- Discussion

Chapter 4 Title for Manuscript 2 (see above)

Chapter 5 Conclusions

- Summary
- Overall model if appropriate (text or illustration if appropriate)
- Conclusions

References

Appendices (as needed)

*Source: Monthly Memo from the Dean, March 2006*