

## **POLS Guidelines for Article-Based Dissertations**

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### **Overview**

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS)'s regulations on theses permit two formats: the traditional format, which has the structure of a book divided into chapters, and the article-based format. SGS guidelines describe the core manuscripts on which the article-based dissertation is based as "a series of main sections/chapters, each of

separated into a distinct chapter.

2. *Three Papers*: The papers that constitute the core of the thesis must be structured so as to be submittable to a recognized refereed journal in the relevant field. They need not be published, but they must be the kind of paper that could be published, and independently, so that in principle all three papers could be published. Although the individual papers should be such that they can be read independently, they should be cross-referenced where appropriate. These papers cannot be co-authored. They may be published in journals before submission of the thesis, but the assessment of journal editors and referees is independent of the assessment of the thesis by the dissertation committee.
3. *Conclusion*: The final chapter connects the results of the three papers and discusses the general implications of the research. Like the introduction, it is not normally intended for publication but is to be written for a scholarly audience.

The article-based dissertation will therefore have a minimum of 5 chapters.

### **Procedure**

The default format of the PhD dissertation is the traditional format. However, a candidate may request permission to write an article-based dissertation. Approval lies in the hands of the student's proposal committee. If the request comes after defense of the proposal, the student should submit a revised thesis summary and chapter / article outline to the original committee.