

## Monograph Thesis and Thesis by Article(s)- Regulations

**According to the University of Ottawa Academic Regulation II-7 for thesis, “Each graduate program is responsible for establishing regulations that govern the specific format, the nature of the publications relied upon, and the content of various parts of the thesis, according to scholarly expectations in the discipline. These regulations must be consistent with University regulations and must be approved by the academic unit offering the program.”**

### Purpose

To describe the School of Nursing regulations that govern the specific format, the nature of the publications relied upon and the content of various parts of the thesis.

### Description

In the School of Nursing, graduate students may present their thesis as a monograph or thesis by article(s). The same ethical and scholarly standards apply regardless of thesis format.

In a thesis by articles, the graduate student presents one or more articles primarily written by the student (with or without co-authors) prepared or submitted for publication in peer-reviewed academic (non-predatory) journals. Masters thesis must include a minimum of 1 article (not more than 2 articles) and Doctoral thesis must include a minimum of 3 articles. Articles cover some parts of the thesis (e.g., published research proposal, article formatted for publication or published on literature/scoping/systematic review, theoretical framework, methodology, concept analysis, main results). *“All articles comprising the thesis must be written while the student is enrolled in the program in which the thesis is being submitted” (Academic Regulation II-7.3.1.2)* and include the article(s) reporting the original findings of the research project for which the thesis proposal was formally approved. ‘Findings’ may refer to the outcome of conceptual work when the thesis is a concept analysis or the results of a systematic review. For students, who transfer from the Master’s of Science in Nursing program into the Doctoral program in nursing after one-year fulltime (or equivalent) in the Master’s program, work during the Master’s program may also transfer into the doctoral program to inform the article(s).

Regardless of the format, the standards for evaluation are the same. Any thesis must consist of a cohesive whole and contain the required elements that enable the student to demonstrate understanding of the subject matter, research methodology(y/ies), analysis of results, value of conclusions, and contribution to nursing knowledge. Thus, a thesis submitted by articles is more than a series of stand-alone articles. In a thesis by articles, additional text or chapters written over and above the papers prepared for publication describe how the chapters flow logically into one another and serve to ensure that the thesis is a cohesive whole.

In addition to a monograph or thesis by article(s) complying with these regulations in the School of Nursing, it also must comply with the regulations provided by the University of Ottawa (see [Academic Regulation II-7 – Thesis](#)). As well, there is guidance in online materials provided by the University of Ottawa Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (see guidelines for [Theses](#))



### Thesis Format

The following table describes the format for monograph and thesis by article(s).

<b>Thesis by article(s)</b>	<b>Monograph thesis</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <u>Preface</u> specifies the approvals obtained to conduct the research, clearly identifies the student's contribution, and distinguishes it from those of collaborators, co-authors or other researchers, if any</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <u>Preface</u> specifies the approvals obtained to conduct the research, clearly identifies the student's contribution, and distinguishes it from those of collaborators, co-authors or other researchers, if any</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Abstract</u> is written with the specific word count limitations for Masters versus Doctoral theses (<b>MSc &lt; 150 words, PhD &lt; 350 words</b>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Abstract</u> is written with specific word count limitations for Masters versus Doctoral theses (<b>MSc &lt; 150 words, PhD &lt; 350 words</b>)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Acknowledgements</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Acknowledgements</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Table of contents</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Table of contents</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <u>General Introduction</u> clearly stating the rationale, the problem statement, key concepts, and the objectives of the study. As well, a description is provided outlining the function of each chapter and how the different parts of the thesis will be presented to make sure chapters flow logically into one another (e.g., linking the chapters).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <u>General Introduction</u>, clearly stating the rationale, the problem statement, key concepts, and the objectives of the study. As well, a description is provided outlining the function of each chapter and how the different parts of the thesis will be presented to make sure chapters flow logically into one another (e.g., linking the chapters).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>A series of article(s)</u></b>: the number required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at least one (1) at the master's level</li> <li>- at least three (3) at the doctoral level</li> </ul> </li> <li>Articles are written on some part(s) of the thesis (e.g. main results, research proposal, methodology, literature/scoping/ systematic review, theoretical framework).</li> <li>Article(s) version is most recent/ published.</li> <li>Articles are written in French or English.</li> <li>Each article has a title page outlining the article title, list of author(s), and academic peer-reviewed journal target for publication or where published</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Literature review</u> NOTE: the description of theoretical framework(s) may be included in this chapter or included in a separate chapter</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Methodology</u></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Results</u></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Integrated discussion with conclusions</u>, to integrate study findings across article(s) (or with other sections of the thesis, such as the literature review, in the case of a single-article thesis) with extant literature and discuss implications for nursing and contributions to nursing knowledge (e.g. practice, education, theory, policy, research).</li> <li>An integrated discussion is an explicit weaving together of the content across the article(s)/ other sections of the thesis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Discussion with conclusions</u> to integrate study findings with extant literature and discuss implications for nursing and contributions to nursing knowledge (e.g., practice, education, theory, policy, research)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>References</u> are included at the end of each chapter. For each article(s), the referencing format may be consistent with that required of the specific journal; different formats within thesis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>References</u> are included before the appendices using a consistent referencing format</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Tables, figures, and charts</u> are included in each relevant chapter / article. For articles, these may be presented at the end of the article/chapter or integrated into the relevant sections of the article</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Tables, figures, and charts</u> are included in each relevant chapter. These are presented within the relevant sections of the chapter</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Appendices</u>, which may contain pertinent documents and/or data not included in the previous chapters (e.g., consent forms, questionnaires, supplementary tables, details about the methodology, the ethics approval certificate, letters of permission)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Appendices</u>, which may contain pertinent documents and/or data not included in the previous chapters (e.g., consent forms, questionnaires, supplementary tables, details about the methodology, the ethics approval certificate, letters of permission).</li> </ul>



## Methodology and Literature

In articles formatted for publication, the details on the literature review, theoretical framework(s), and methodology may be limited by the word count for the journal. To provide adequate detail for examiners of the thesis, students may include additional details by adding a chapter(s), enhancing the details in the included version of article(s) formatted for publication, or providing details in an appendix. For example, methodology should include the methods, rationale, and supporting references.

## Copyright

If the article is already published, the student must follow the journal requirements for obtaining permission to include it in the thesis. This release is needed so the University can then reproduce the thesis according to the Academic Regulations for thesis. If the article included in the thesis is not published, the graduate student may consider placing an embargo on that chapter in the thesis when submitting the thesis for publication.

## Thesis evaluation

The jury's assessment of the thesis is the same for thesis by article(s) or monograph. The evaluation is an assessment of the document's overall worth as a reflection of what the student has learned and has brought to the advancement of knowledge. A delay in the acceptance or the publication of a manuscript must not influence or hinder the student's evaluation.

For reasons of conflict of interest, the external member of the jury must not be a co-author in the submitted or published articles or expected to be an author on subsequent publications of a monograph thesis.

## Other relevant information

University of Ottawa Regulations for Thesis: <https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-II-7-theses>

University of Ottawa Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Guidelines for Thesis: <http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/theses/writing>

For information concerning the advantages and disadvantages of a manuscript-based thesis, please refer to the following references :

<http://unstick.me/the-three-article-dissertation-tad/>

Dubois, JM. (2005) La rédaction scientifique. Mémoires et thèses : formes régulières et par articles. Issy-les-Moulineaux : Estem, available at the Health Sciences Library.

Robins L, Kanowski P. (2008). PhD by Publication: A Student's Perspective. Journal of Research Practice, 4(2), <http://jrp.icaap.org/index.php/jrp/article/view/136/154>