

PhD Dissertation Template - Chicago/Turabian Format (9th Edition)

Complete Chicago-formatted dissertation template. Replace bracketed text with your content.

TITLE PAGE

[Centered on page, no page number]

[TITLE OF DISSERTATION IN ALL CAPS:] [SECOND LINE IF NEEDED]

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty of the Division of

[Division/School Name]

in Candidacy for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

[Department Name]

BY

[YOUR FULL NAME]

[CITY, STATE]

[MONTH YEAR]

COPYRIGHT PAGE

[Page number: ii - small Roman numerals]

Copyright © [Year] by [Your Full Name]

All rights reserved

DEDICATION (Optional)

[Page number: iii]

[Centered on page]

To [dedication text]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[Page number: iv]

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[Express gratitude to dissertation committee, funding sources, archives/institutions, research participants, colleagues, family. Single-spaced with double-spacing between paragraphs. 2-3 pages typical for PhD.]

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LIST OF FIGURES

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (if needed)

[Page number: xi]

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Term
[ABBR]	[Full name]
[ABBR]	[Full name]

ABSTRACT

[Page number: xii]

ABSTRACT

[Write 250-350 words summarizing entire dissertation. Single paragraph, single-spaced or double-spaced per university requirements. Include: research problem, theoretical framework, methods, key findings, significance. No footnotes in abstract.]

INTRODUCTION

[Start Arabic numbering: Page 1]

INTRODUCTION

[Opening establishes broad topic, significance, and research questions. 10-15 pages typical.]

[Text double-spaced. Footnotes single-spaced with double-spacing between them. Block quotes single-spaced.]

The question of [topic] has long occupied [field].¹ Recent scholarship has examined [what's been studied], revealing [findings].² However, significant questions remain regarding [gap].³

This dissertation addresses [specific question/problem] by [approach]. Drawing on [sources/methods], I argue that [central thesis/argument].

Research Questions

This study is guided by the following research questions:

1. [Research question 1]
2. [Research question 2]
3. [Research question 3]

Theoretical Framework

This research employs [theoretical approach/framework] to analyze [topic].⁴ This framework allows for [what it enables].

Methodology

This dissertation is based on [describe sources/data]. I use [methods: archival research, discourse analysis, ethnography, comparative analysis, etc.] to examine [what you're studying].⁵

Significance

This research contributes to [field] in several ways. First, [contribution 1]. Second, [contribution 2]. Third, [contribution 3].

Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on [geographic area, time period, population, texts]. It does not address [what's excluded]. The research is limited by [constraints].

Organization

The dissertation is organized as follows. Chapter 1 [overview]. Chapter 2 [overview]. Chapters 3-5 [overview]. The conclusion [overview].

1. Author Name, *Book Title* (Place: Publisher, Year), page.
2. Author Name, "Article Title," *Journal Name* volume, no. issue (Year): page.

3. Continue consecutive footnote numbering throughout entire dissertation.
4. Theorist Name, *Theoretical Work*, pages.
5. Methodologist Name, *Methods Book*, pages.

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER 1

[CHAPTER TITLE IN ALL CAPS]

[Opening paragraph introduces chapter's focus and argument.]

[For humanities dissertations, chapters develop your argument rather than following strict social science structure. Each chapter typically 30-50 pages.]

[Section Heading]

The history of [topic] reveals [argument].⁶ Early [period] scholarship focused on [approach], as evidenced by [scholar's] claim that “[quote].”⁷

[Continue developing argument with evidence from primary and secondary sources]

[Section Heading]

[Continue with analysis, close reading, historical narrative, theoretical application]

[Use footnotes for all citations and substantive commentary]

Summary

[Conclude chapter by summarizing argument and previewing next chapter]

6. Continue numbering from introduction.

7. First citation: Full format. Author Name, *Book Title* (Place: Publisher, Year), page.

CHAPTER 2

CHAPTER 2

[CHAPTER TITLE]

[Continue developing dissertation argument]

Literature Review / Historical Background / Theoretical Framework

[Depending on your field, this chapter might:] - Review historiography and scholarly debates - Provide historical context and background - Elaborate theoretical framework - Present case study or analysis

Scholars have debated [issue] extensively. [Scholar] argues that [position].⁸ By contrast, [Scholar] contends that [contrasting view].⁹ More recently, [Scholar] has suggested [new approach].¹⁰

My analysis builds on [whose work] while departing from [whose approach] in important ways. I argue that [your position].

[Continue with detailed analysis, evidence, and argumentation]

[Section Heading]

[Develop argument systematically]

[Section Heading]

[Continue]

8. Author, *Book*, page.

9. Subsequent citations: Shortened format. Author, *Short Title*, page.

10. Continue footnote numbering consecutively.

CHAPTER 3

CHAPTER 3

[CHAPTER TITLE]

[For empirical dissertations, this might be Methodology] [For humanities, continue building your argument with new evidence/cases]

Research Design (if empirical)

This dissertation employs [qualitative/quantitative/mixed/archival/comparative] methods to examine [research questions].

Rationale. This methodological approach is appropriate because [justification].¹¹

Sources and Data

The research draws on [describe sources in detail]:

- [Source type 1]: [Description, location, dates covered]
- [Source type 2]: [Description]
- [Source type 3]: [Description]

[Primary source collections]: I examined [number] documents from [archive name], including [types of documents].¹²

[Secondary sources]: The dissertation engages [number] secondary sources spanning [describe scope].

Analytical Approach

[Describe how you analyzed your sources/data]

I employ [method: discourse analysis, content analysis, close reading, comparative historical analysis, etc.] to [purpose].¹³

[Section with Analysis]

[Begin presenting analysis, evidence, or case studies]

11. Citation for methodological source.
12. Format for archival sources: Document Title, Date, Collection Name, Archive Name, City.
13. Continue citations.

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 4

[CHAPTER TITLE]

[Continue developing argument with evidence and analysis]

[For empirical work: Present findings] [For humanities: Continue analytical chapters]

[Section Heading]

Analysis of [sources/data] reveals [finding].¹⁴ As [primary source] demonstrates, “[quote from primary source].”¹⁵

This evidence supports my argument that [claim]. Specifically, [elaboration of argument with additional evidence].

[Section Heading]

[Continue systematic analysis]

[Include tables or figures if they support your analysis]

Table 1. [Title]

[data]	[data]	[data]
--------	--------	--------

Source: [Where data came from]¹⁶

Figure 1. [Title]

[Insert figure]

*Source: [Attribution]*¹⁷

14. Continue numbering.

15. Primary Source Title, Date, Collection, Archive.

16. Citation for table source.

17. Citation for figure source.

CHAPTER 5

CHAPTER 5

[CHAPTER TITLE]

[Continue analysis]

[For 5-chapter dissertations, this is often Discussion] [For 6+ chapter dissertations, continue building argument]

Interpretation (if Discussion chapter)

The findings presented in previous chapters demonstrate [synthesis].¹⁸

First, [major finding/argument] challenges the scholarly consensus that [previous view]. Instead, the evidence reveals [your interpretation].

Second, [finding/argument] extends [scholar's] work by showing [extension].

Third, [finding/argument] suggests [implication].

Implications

These findings have several important implications:

Theoretical Implications. This research advances understanding of [topic] by [contribution]. The findings suggest that [theoretical insight].¹⁹

Historical Implications. [If historical dissertation] This study revises understanding of [period/event] by demonstrating [revision to historiography].

Methodological Implications. [If applicable] This research demonstrates [methodological contribution].

Limitations

This study has several limitations. First, [limitation]. Second, [limitation]. Future research should [recommendation].

18. Continue footnotes.

19. Citation if connecting to theory.

CHAPTER 6 (if applicable)

CHAPTER 6

[CHAPTER TITLE]

[Additional analytical chapter if needed for your argument]

[Some dissertations have 6-8 chapters depending on complexity]

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

[Synthesize entire dissertation. 10-15 pages.]

This dissertation has examined [topic] through [approach]. Drawing on [sources/methods], I have argued that [restate central thesis].

Summary of Findings

Chapter 1 demonstrated [summary]. Chapter 2 showed [summary]. Chapters 3-5 revealed [summary].

Contribution to Scholarship

This research makes several contributions to [field]:

First, it revises/extends/challenges [what aspect of existing scholarship].²⁰ By demonstrating [your finding], this study [how it advances the field].

Second, it introduces/applies [methodological, theoretical, or empirical contribution].

Third, it opens new avenues for research on [topic].

Broader Implications

Beyond [immediate field], these findings have implications for understanding [broader issue]. The dissertation shows that [wider significance].

Future Research

This study raises several questions for future investigation:

- How does [finding] apply in [different context]?
- What explains [pattern identified]?
- How has [phenomenon] changed over time?

Concluding Thoughts

[Final reflection on significance]

Ultimately, this dissertation reveals that [key insight]. As [relevant scholar] argued, “[quote].”²¹ The research presented here confirms, extends, and complicates that insight by [your contribution].

[Closing paragraph with forward-looking statement]

20. Continue final footnotes.

21. Concluding citation.

APPENDIX A

[Start new page]

APPENDIX A

[TITLE IN ALL CAPS]

[Supplementary materials: data tables, full survey instruments, interview protocols, transcripts, additional documents, extended analysis, technical appendices]

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

[TITLE IN ALL CAPS]

[Additional materials]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Start new page]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Single-spaced within entries, double-spaced between entries]

[Hanging indent 0.5 inches]

[Alphabetical by author last name]

[Divided into sections if appropriate: Primary Sources, Secondary Sources]

Primary Sources

[If applicable - archival documents, manuscripts, interviews conducted]

Archival Collections

[Collection Name]. [Archive Name], [City, State].

[Document Title]. [Date]. [Box/Folder]. [Collection Name], [Archive Name], [City].

Interviews

[Interviewee Name]. Interview by author. [City, State], [Date].

Published Primary Sources

Author Last Name, First Name. *Title of Primary Work*. Place: Publisher, Year.

Secondary Sources

[All scholarly books, articles, and other sources cited in footnotes]

Books

Last Name, First Name. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Place: Publisher, Year.

Last Name, First Name, and First Last Name. *Title of Book*. Edition. Place: Publisher, Year.

Edited Volumes

Last Name, First Name, ed. *Title of Book*. Place: Publisher, Year.

Book Chapters

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Chapter." In *Title of Book*, edited by First Last Name, page range. Place: Publisher, Year.

Journal Articles

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* volume, no. issue (Year): page range. DOI or URL.

Dissertations

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Dissertation." PhD diss., University Name, Year.

Newspaper Articles

Last Name, First Name. "Article Title." *Newspaper Name*, Month Day, Year.

Electronic Sources

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Document." *Website Name*. Publication date or access date. URL.

[Continue with all sources cited, organized alphabetically within each section]

[Typical PhD dissertation: 150-300+ sources]

FORMATTING CHECKLIST

General Format

- 12-pt Times New Roman or similar
- Double-spacing for body text
- Single-spacing for footnotes, bibliography, block quotes
- 1-inch margins all sides
- Page numbers centered at bottom or top right

Title Page

- Title in all caps, centered
- All required information included
- No page number on title page

Pagination

- Small Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv) for front matter
- Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3) from introduction
- Continuous numbering through bibliography

Footnotes

- Superscript numbers in text
- Consecutive numbering throughout dissertation
- Footnotes at bottom of each page
- Single-spaced within, double-spaced between
- First citation: full format
- Subsequent citations: shortened format
- Indent first line 0.5 inches

Footnote Format

First citation: - [] Author Full Name, *Book Title* (Place: Publisher, Year), page. - [] Author Name, "Article Title," *Journal* vol. no. iss (Year): page.

Short citation: - [] Author Last Name, *Short Title*, page.

Bibliography

- Starts on new page
- Title "BIBLIOGRAPHY" all caps, centered
- Hanging indent (0.5 inches)
- Alphabetical by author last name
- Single-spaced within entries
- Double-spaced between entries
- Author last name first: Last, First
- Divided into Primary/Secondary if appropriate

Block Quotes

- Used for quotes 100+ words (or 5+ lines)
- Indented 0.5 inches from left margin
- Single-spaced
- No quotation marks
- Footnote after final punctuation

Tables and Figures

- Numbered consecutively
- Table number and title above table
- Figure number and caption below figure
- Source attribution in note or caption
- Referenced in text before appearing

TYPICAL LENGTH

PhD Dissertation (Humanities): 200-400 pages

Chapter breakdown (varies widely): - Introduction: 10-15 pages - Chapter 1: 30-50 pages - Chapter 2: 30-50 pages - Chapters 3-6: 30-50 pages each - Conclusion: 10-15 pages

Some fields (History, Literature) may be 300-500 pages

Bibliography typically 20-40 pages

NOTES ON CHICAGO STYLE FOR DISSERTATIONS

Notes-Bibliography vs. Author-Date

This template uses **Notes-Bibliography** style (most common for humanities dissertations in History, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Art History).

For dissertations in some social sciences, **Author-Date** style may be required (similar to APA). Check your department requirements.

Footnotes vs. Endnotes

Most dissertations use **footnotes** (at bottom of each page).

Some departments allow **endnotes** (all notes at end of each chapter or end of dissertation).

Archival Citations

Format varies by archive type. Common format:

[Document Title], [Date], [Box/Folder], [Collection Name], [Archive Name], [City, State].

Primary vs. Secondary Sources

Many humanities dissertations divide bibliography into: - **Primary Sources** (archival materials, interviews, texts being analyzed) - **Secondary Sources** (scholarly literature)

Check your department's preference.

Template Complete. Adapt to your field's conventions. Good luck with your research!

