

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

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

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## 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]

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## COPYRIGHT PAGE

[Page number: ii - small Roman numerals]

Copyright © [Year] by [Your Full Name]

All rights reserved

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## DEDICATION (Optional)

[Page number: iii]

[Centered on page]

*To [dedication text]*

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## 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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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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### CONTENTS

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### LIST OF TABLES

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## LIST OF FIGURES

[Page number: x]

## 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].<sup>1</sup> Recent scholarship has examined [what's been studied], revealing [findings].<sup>2</sup> However, significant questions remain regarding [gap].<sup>3</sup>

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].<sup>4</sup> 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].<sup>5</sup>

### 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].<sup>6</sup> Early [period] scholarship focused on [approach], as evidenced by [scholar's] claim that "[quote]."<sup>7</sup>

[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].<sup>8</sup> By contrast, [Scholar] contends that [contrasting view].<sup>9</sup> More recently, [Scholar] has suggested [new approach].<sup>10</sup>

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].<sup>11</sup>

#### 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].<sup>12</sup>

[**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].<sup>13</sup>

### **[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].<sup>14</sup> As [primary source] demonstrates, “[quote from primary source].”<sup>15</sup>

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]<sup>16</sup>

**Figure 1.** [Title]

[Insert figure]

Source: [Attribution]<sup>17</sup>

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].<sup>18</sup>

**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].<sup>19</sup>

**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].<sup>20</sup> 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].”<sup>21</sup> 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]

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## **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]

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## 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

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## 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.

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