

# Master's Thesis Template - APA Format (7th Edition)

Complete APA-formatted thesis template. Replace bracketed text with your content.

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## TITLE PAGE

[Running head: ABBREVIATED TITLE IN CAPS]

[Page number: i]

[Full Title of Your Thesis in Title Case:\*\*

\*\*Centered, Bold, Not Exceeding Two Lines]

[Your Full Name]

[Department Name, University Name]

[Degree Name (e.g., Master of Science)]

[Month Year]

**Committee:**

[Chair Name], Chair

[Member Name]

[Member Name]

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## COPYRIGHT PAGE (Optional)

[Page number: ii]

© [Year] [Your Full Name]

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## ABSTRACT

[Page number: iii]

### Abstract

[Write 150-250 words summarizing your entire thesis. Include: research problem, methods, key findings, and main conclusions. Single paragraph, no indent, double-spaced. No citations in abstract.]

**Keywords:** [3-5 keywords, separated by commas]

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (Optional)

[Page number: iv]

### Acknowledgments

[Thank committee members, funding sources, research participants, colleagues, family. Keep professional and brief. 1-2 pages maximum.]

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Page number: v]

### Table of Contents

Section	Page
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Background	1
Problem Statement	3
Research Questions	5
Significance	6
Chapter 2: Literature Review	9
Theoretical Framework	9
[Theme 1]	12
[Theme 2]	18
Chapter 3: Methodology	25
Research Design	25
Sample	27
Data Collection	29
Data Analysis	32
Chapter 4: Results	35
Descriptive Statistics	35
[Research Question 1]	38
[Research Question 2]	42
Chapter 5: Discussion	48
Interpretation of Findings	48
Implications	53
Limitations	56
Recommendations	58

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Section	Page
Conclusion	60
References	62
Appendix A: [Title]	75
Appendix B: [Title]	80

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## LIST OF TABLES

[Page number: vii]

### List of Tables

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Table	Page
1. Participant Demographics	36
2. Descriptive Statistics for Variables	37
3. Correlation Matrix	39
4. Regression Analysis Results	41

[Continue numbering all tables]

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## LIST OF FIGURES

[Page number: viii]

### List of Figures

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Figure	Page
1. Conceptual Framework	11
2. Research Design Flowchart	26
3. Distribution of Responses	38

[Continue numbering all figures]

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

[Start Arabic numbering: Page 1]

### Chapter 1: Introduction

[Opening paragraph: Introduce the broad topic, provide context, and establish why this research matters. No heading for first paragraph.]

## Background

[Provide background information about your topic. Establish the context and explain what is currently known. Use Level 2 heading format.]

[Continue with several paragraphs discussing the background. Each paragraph should be indented 0.5 inches, double-spaced.]

## Problem Statement

[Clearly articulate the specific problem or gap in knowledge that your research addresses. Explain why this problem is significant and worth investigating.]

## Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study:

**RQ1:** [Your first research question]

**RQ2:** [Your second research question]

**RQ3:** [Your third research question, if applicable]

Alternatively, state hypotheses:

**H1:** [Hypothesis statement]

**H0:** [Null hypothesis]

## Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to [clearly state what you aimed to do and achieve].

## Significance of the Study

[Explain who benefits from this research and how. Discuss theoretical, practical, and policy implications.]

**Theoretical Significance** [How this advances knowledge in your field]

**Practical Significance** [How practitioners can use these findings]

## Scope and Limitations

**Scope** [What is included in your study - population, timeframe, context]

**Limitations** [Constraints that affected your research - be honest about what limited your study]

## Definition of Terms

[Term 1]: [Your operational definition]

[Term 2]: [Your operational definition]

[Term 3]: [Your operational definition]

## Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is organized into five chapters. Chapter 2 reviews relevant literature and presents the theoretical framework. Chapter 3 describes the research methodology. Chapter 4 presents the results. Chapter 5 discusses findings, implications, and recommendations for future research.

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## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### Chapter 2: Literature Review

[Opening paragraph: Provide overview of what this chapter covers and how it's organized.]

#### Theoretical Framework

[Describe the theories that guide your research. Explain key concepts and how they relate to your study.]

[**Theory Name**] [Explain the theory, who developed it, its main tenets, and how it applies to your research.]

#### Conceptual Framework

[Present your conceptual model - how variables/concepts relate to each other. Include a figure if helpful.]

Figure 1

*[Title of Conceptual Model]*

[Insert figure here]

*Note.* [Explanation of figure, if needed]

#### Review of Related Literature

[Organize by themes, not by individual sources. Synthesize research, don't just summarize source-by-source.]

**[Theme/Topic 1]** [Discuss what research says about this theme. Synthesize multiple sources. Use past tense for research findings: “Smith (2020) found that...”]

According to Johnson and Martinez (2019), [finding]. However, Chen et al. (2021) challenged this by demonstrating that [contrasting finding]. These contradictory findings suggest [your synthesis].

**[Theme/Topic 2]** [Continue organizing by themes. Show how sources relate to each other and to your research questions.]

Research has consistently shown [consensus]. For example, Brown (2018) found [finding], while Davis (2020) reported similar results in a different context [finding].

However, significant gaps remain. No studies have examined [your gap].

**[Theme/Topic 3]** [Continue with additional themes as needed]

### **Summary and Research Gap**

[Synthesize what literature tells us, identify specific gaps, and explain how your study addresses these gaps.]

The literature reviewed in this chapter reveals [synthesis]. However, [specific gap exists]. This study addresses this gap by [your approach].

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## **CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY**

### **Chapter 3: Methodology**

[Opening paragraph: Overview of your research approach and justification]

### **Research Design**

This study employed a [qualitative/quantitative/mixed methods] approach using [specific design] to [purpose].

**Justification for Design** [Explain why this design was most appropriate for answering your research questions]

### **Population and Sample**

**Target Population** The target population for this study consisted of [describe population with specific characteristics].

### **Sample**

**Sample Size** The sample included [N = number] [participants/cases] [from where].

**Sampling Method** [Describe sampling strategy: random, stratified, purposive, convenience, etc.]

**Inclusion Criteria** Participants were included if they met the following criteria:

1. [Criterion 1]
2. [Criterion 2]
3. [Criterion 3]

**Exclusion Criteria** Participants were excluded if [criteria].

### Instrumentation

**[Instrument Name]** [Describe each instrument/tool used for data collection]

**Description.** [What it measures, number of items, response format]

**Validity and Reliability.** [Psychometric properties - Cronbach's alpha, previous validation studies]

**Scoring.** [How responses are scored or interpreted]

### Data Collection Procedures

Data collection occurred between [dates] and followed these procedures:

1. [Step 1 - be specific]
2. [Step 2]
3. [Step 3]
4. [Continue with detailed steps]

### Data Analysis

**Quantitative Analysis** Data were analyzed using [Software Name, Version]. The following analyses were conducted:

**Descriptive Statistics.** [What you calculated - means, SDs, frequencies]

#### Inferential Statistics.

- *RQ1 Analysis:* [Specific test used and why - e.g., independent samples *t*-test to compare...]
- *RQ2 Analysis:* [Test and justification]
- *RQ3 Analysis:* [Test and justification]

Statistical significance was set at  $p < .05$ .

**Qualitative Analysis** [If applicable] Data were analyzed using [thematic/content/discourse analysis]. The coding process involved:

1. Initial coding of raw data
2. Focused coding to identify patterns
3. Development of themes
4. Validation through [member checking/peer review/triangulation]

[Software Name] was used to organize and code data.

### **Ethical Considerations**

This study received approval from the [University] Institutional Review Board (Protocol #[number]) on [date].

**Informed Consent** [How consent was obtained]

**Confidentiality** [How participant identity and data were protected]

**Potential Risks and Benefits** [Minimal risks and mitigation strategies; potential benefits]

### **Limitations**

Several limitations should be noted:

1. [Limitation 1 and potential impact]
2. [Limitation 2 and potential impact]
3. [Limitation 3 and potential impact]

---

## **CHAPTER 4: RESULTS**

### **Chapter 4: Results**

[Opening: Restate research questions and provide overview of results]

#### **Descriptive Statistics**

**Sample Characteristics** [Describe your sample - demographics, relevant characteristics]

Table 1

*Participant Demographics*

Characteristic	n	%
Gender		

Characteristic	<i>n</i>	%
Male	[n]	[%]
Female	[n]	[%]
Age		
18-25	[n]	[%]
26-35	[n]	[%]
[Continue]		

*Note.*  $N$  = [total sample size].

**Descriptive Statistics for Study Variables** [Present means, standard deviations, ranges for all variables]

Table 2

*Descriptive Statistics for Study Variables*

Variable	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	Range
[Variable 1]	[mean]	[SD]	[min-max]
[Variable 2]	[mean]	[SD]	[min-max]
[Continue]			

*Note.* [Any notes about the table]

### Results for Research Question 1

**RQ1:** [Restate the question]

[Present results objectively. Use past tense. Include relevant statistics.]

An independent samples *t*-test revealed that [Group 1] ( $M$  = [mean],  $SD$  = [SD]) scored significantly higher than [Group 2] ( $M$  = [mean],  $SD$  = [SD]) on [variable],  $t([df])$  = [value],  $p$  = [value],  $d$  = [effect size].

[Include figure or table if it clarifies results]

Figure 2

*[Title Describing What Figure Shows]*

[Insert graph/chart here]

*Note.* [Explanation if needed]

## Results for Research Question 2

**RQ2:** [Restate the question]

[Present results with appropriate statistics]

A multiple regression analysis was conducted to [purpose]. Results indicated that the model significantly predicted [outcome],  $F([df1], [df2]) = [value]$ ,  $p < [value]$ ,  $R^2 = [value]$ . [Predictor 1] ( $= [value]$ ,  $p = [value]$ ) and [Predictor 2] ( $= [value]$ ,  $p = [value]$ ) were significant predictors.

Table 3

*Regression Analysis Results*

Predictor	B	SE	t	p
[Predictor 1]				
[Predictor 2]				
[Predictor 3]				

*Note.*  $R^2 = [value]$ ;  $F([df]) = [value]$ ,  $p < [value]$ .

## Results for Research Question 3

**RQ3:** [Restate the question]

[Continue presenting results for each research question]

## Summary of Results

[Brief summary of key findings - transition to discussion chapter]

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## CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

### Chapter 5: Discussion

[Opening: Restate purpose of study and provide overview of chapter]

### Summary of Findings

This study examined [brief restatement of purpose]. The major findings were:

1. [Finding 1]
2. [Finding 2]
3. [Finding 3]

## Interpretation of Findings

**Finding 1: [Brief Description]** [Interpret what this result means. Connect to literature. Explain if it was expected or surprising.]

This finding aligns with [Author's] (Year) research, which demonstrated [similar result]. The result can be explained by [theoretical explanation]. This suggests that [implication].

However, this finding contradicts [Author's] (Year) work, which found [different result]. This discrepancy may be due to [methodological differences/population differences/context].

**Finding 2: [Brief Description]** [Interpretation and connection to literature]

**Finding 3: [Brief Description]** [Interpretation and connection to literature]

## Implications

**Theoretical Implications** [How findings contribute to theory and advance knowledge in your field]

These findings extend [Theory Name] by demonstrating [contribution]. This has implications for how researchers conceptualize [concept].

**Practical Implications** [How findings can be applied in real-world settings]

Practitioners should consider [recommendation based on findings]. Specifically, [specific action/application].

**Policy Implications** [If applicable - what policymakers should know]

## Limitations

While this study provides valuable insights, several limitations should be acknowledged:

1. **[Limitation 1].** [Describe limitation and how it might affect interpretation]
2. **[Limitation 2].** [Describe and explain impact]
3. **[Limitation 3].** [Describe and explain impact]

These limitations suggest caution when [generalizing/applying findings].

## Recommendations for Future Research

Based on the findings and limitations, the following recommendations are made:

1. [Recommendation 1]. Future research should [specific suggestion] to [purpose].
2. [Recommendation 2]. Researchers might investigate [question] using [method].
3. [Recommendation 3]. Longitudinal studies could examine [how this develops over time].

## Conclusion

[Provide final synthesis - 1-2 paragraphs summarizing the study's contribution and significance]

This study contributes to understanding of [topic] by [main contribution]. The findings demonstrate that [key takeaway]. While [acknowledge limitations], these results have important implications for [field/practice/policy]. Future research should [forward-looking statement].

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## REFERENCES

[Start on new page]

### References

[Use hanging indent for all references] [Alphabetical by author last name]  
[Double-spaced throughout] [Follow APA 7th edition format exactly]

Author, A. A., & Author, B. B. (Year). Title of article. *Title of Periodical*, *volume*(issue), page range. <https://doi.org/xxxxx>

Author, C. C. (Year). *Title of book* (edition). Publisher Name. <https://doi.org/xxxxx>

Author, D. D., Author, E. E., & Author, F. F. (Year). Title of chapter. In E. E. Editor & F. F. Editor (Eds.), *Title of book* (pp. xxx-xxx). Publisher.

[Continue with all sources cited in text]

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## APPENDIX A: [TITLE]

[Start on new page]

### Appendix A

#### [Title of Appendix]

[Include survey instruments, interview protocols, consent forms, or other supplementary materials]

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## APPENDIX B: [TITLE]

### Appendix B

#### [Title of Appendix]

[Additional supplementary materials]

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## APA FORMATTING CHECKLIST

### General Format

- 12-pt Times New Roman font
- Double-spacing throughout (except table titles/notes)
- 1-inch margins all sides
- Page numbers in header, top right

### Front Matter

- Roman numerals (i, ii, iii) for front matter pages
- Abstract 150-250 words, single paragraph
- Table of contents with accurate page numbers
- Lists of tables/figures with accurate page numbers

### Body (Chapters)

- Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3) starting with Chapter 1
- Running head on each page (optional for student papers)
- Five levels of headings used correctly
- Paragraphs indented 0.5 inches
- No extra spacing between paragraphs

### Citations

- All in-text citations in References
- All References cited in text
- Author-date format: (Author, Year)
- Direct quotes include page: (Author, Year, p. #)
- Three or more authors: (Smith et al., Year)

### References

- Hanging indent (0.5 inches)
- Alphabetical by author last name
- Double-spaced
- DOIs included when available
- All entries follow APA 7th format

## Tables and Figures

- Numbered consecutively (Table 1, Figure 1)
- Each has title above (tables) or below (figures)
- Titles in *italics*
- Notes below if needed
- Referenced in text before appearing
- Formatted per APA guidelines

## Statistics

- Italicize statistical symbols: *M*, *SD*, *p*, *t*, *F*, *r*
- Report exact *p* values:  $p = .032$  (not  $p < .05$ )
- Include effect sizes:  $d$ ,  $\eta^2$ ,  $r$
- Use proper notation:  $t(45) = 3.21$ ,  $p = .002$

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Template Complete. Replace all bracketed content with your research. Good luck!

