

# Master's Thesis Template - Chicago/Turabian Format (9th Edition)

Complete Chicago/Turabian-formatted thesis template. Replace bracketed text with your content.

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## TITLE PAGE

[Centered on page, no page number]

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

BY

[YOUR FULL NAME]

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of

[MASTER OF ARTS / MASTER OF SCIENCE]

in

[DEPARTMENT NAME]

[UNIVERSITY NAME]

[CITY, STATE]

[MONTH YEAR]

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## COPYRIGHT PAGE (Optional)

[Centered on page]

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## DEDICATION (Optional)

[Page number: ii - small Roman numerals, centered at bottom]

[Centered on page]

*To [dedication text]*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[Page number: iii]

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[Thank committee members, funding sources, research participants, colleagues, family. Single-spaced with double-spacing between paragraphs. 1-2 pages maximum.]

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### LIST OF FIGURES

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## ABSTRACT

[Page number: ix]

### ABSTRACT

[Write 150-300 words summarizing entire thesis. Include: research problem, methods, key findings, and main conclusions. Single paragraph, single-spaced or double-spaced per university requirements. No footnotes in abstract.]

## INTRODUCTION

[Start Arabic numbering: Page 1]

### INTRODUCTION

[Opening paragraph introduces broad topic and establishes significance. Text is double-spaced throughout with single-spacing between footnotes. Block quotes are single-spaced. First line of each paragraph indented 0.5 inches.]

#### Background and Context

[Provide background information about your topic. Establish context and explain current knowledge. Use bold for section headings.]

The history of [topic] reveals [context].<sup>1</sup> Recent scholarship has demonstrated [finding].<sup>2</sup> However, significant questions remain regarding [gap].<sup>3</sup>

1. First Author Last Name and Second Author Last Name, *Title of Book* (Place: Publisher, Year), page number.
2. Author Name, “Title of Article,” *Journal Name* volume, no. issue (Year): page number.
3. Author Name, *Book Title*, page number.

#### Problem Statement

[Clearly articulate specific problem or gap that research addresses.]

Despite scholarly attention to [broad topic], little research examines [specific gap]. This is problematic because [why it matters].<sup>4</sup>

#### Research Questions

This study addresses the following research questions:

1. [Your first research question]
2. [Your second research question]
3. [Your third research question]

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to [clearly state objective and goals].

#### Significance of the Study

This research contributes to [field] by [contribution]. The findings have implications for [scholars/practitioners/policymakers] who [application].

#### Scope and Limitations

This study examines [scope—population, timeframe, context]. Several limitations constrain the research:

- [Limitation 1 and its impact]
- [Limitation 2 and its impact]
- [Limitation 3 and its impact]

### **Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis comprises four chapters and a conclusion. Chapter 1 reviews relevant literature and theoretical frameworks...

4. Continue numbering footnotes consecutively throughout entire thesis.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

[Opening paragraph provides overview of chapter organization and scope.]

##### **Theoretical Framework**

[Describe theories guiding your research. Explain key concepts and relationships.]

According to [Scholar's] framework, [explanation of theory].<sup>5</sup> This theoretical lens illuminates [your topic] by [connection].

**Figure 1.** [Title of conceptual model in sentence case]

[Insert figure here]

##### **Review of Related Literature**

[Organize by themes, not individual sources. Synthesize research across multiple works.]

###### **[Theme/Topic 1]**

Scholars have examined [topic] from multiple perspectives. Early research focused on [historical approach].<sup>6</sup> More recently, attention has shifted to [contemporary focus].<sup>7</sup>

Martinez argues that [position], demonstrating [finding] through [method].<sup>8</sup> However, Chen challenges this interpretation, claiming instead that [alternative view].<sup>9</sup>

These contradictory findings suggest [synthesis and implications].

###### **[Theme/Topic 2]**

[Continue organizing by themes, showing relationships between sources and connecting to research questions.]

###### **[Theme/Topic 3]**

[Additional themes as needed]

### **Summary and Research Gap**

The literature establishes [synthesis]. However, [specific gap exists]. This study addresses this gap by [approach].

5. First citation of source uses full citation format.
6. Author, *Title*, page.
7. Subsequent citations use shortened format: Author, *Shortened Title*, page.
8. For multiple works by same author, include short title: Author, *Short Title*, page.
9. Continue footnote numbering throughout chapter.

---

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **CHAPTER 2**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research Design**

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

This methodological approach is appropriate because [justification connecting design to research questions].<sup>10</sup>

#### **Population and Sample**

The target population consists of [describe population with characteristics]. The sample includes [N = number] [participants/cases] from [location/source].

**Sampling Method.** [Strategy: random, stratified, purposive, convenience]

**Inclusion Criteria.** Participants qualified if they:

- [Criterion 1]
- [Criterion 2]
- [Criterion 3]

**Exclusion Criteria.** [What disqualified participation]

#### **Data Collection**

Data collection occurred between [dates] through [methods].

**Instruments.** The primary instrument was [name/type], which [description].<sup>11</sup> This instrument consists of [details: items, format, scoring]. Reliability

was established through [evidence], and validity demonstrated by [validation method].<sup>12</sup>

**Procedures.** The following procedures were followed:

1. [Step 1—detailed description]
2. [Step 2]
3. [Step 3]
4. [Continue with all steps]

### **Data Analysis**

**Quantitative Analysis.** Data were analyzed using [software]. Statistical procedures included:

- Descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations, frequencies)
- [Specific inferential test] to examine [RQ1]
- [Specific test] to determine [RQ2]

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

**Qualitative Analysis.** Qualitative data were analyzed through [method: thematic, discourse, content analysis].

The process involved: (1) transcription, (2) initial coding, (3) focused coding, (4) theme development, and (5) validation through [triangulation/member checking/peer review].

### **Ethical Considerations**

The [University] Institutional Review Board approved this study (Protocol # [number]) on [date]. All participants provided informed consent. Data confidentiality was maintained through [measures]. Participants' identities were protected using [pseudonyms/coding].

10. Continue consecutive footnote numbering from previous chapters.
11. Author, "Title of Article on Instrument," *Journal* volume (Year): pages.
12. Continue citations in footnotes throughout.

---

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESULTS**

[Restate research questions and provide overview of findings.]

#### **Participant Characteristics**

[Describe sample demographics and relevant characteristics.]

**Table 1.** Participant Demographics

Characteristic	N	%
Gender		
Male	[n]	[%]
Female	[n]	[%]
Age		
18-25	[n]	[%]
[Continue]		

*Note:* Total  $N$  = [sample size].

### Descriptive Statistics

**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]

### Research Question 1

[Present findings objectively using past tense.]

Analysis revealed that [finding].<sup>13</sup> Specifically, [Group 1] ( $M$  = [mean],  $SD$  = [SD]) scored significantly higher than [Group 2] ( $M$  = [mean],  $SD$  = [SD]),  $t([df]) = [value]$ ,  $p = [value]$ ,  $d = [effect\ size]$ .

**Figure 2.** [Description of what figure shows]

[Insert graph/chart]

*Note:* [Any needed explanation]

### Research Question 2

[Continue presenting results for each RQ with appropriate statistics and evidence.]

### Research Question 3

[Additional findings]

### Summary

[Brief recap of major findings—transition to discussion]

13. If citing methodology or theory to interpret results, include footnote.

## CHAPTER 4

### CHAPTER 4

#### DISCUSSION

##### **Interpretation of Findings**

This study examined [purpose]. The findings reveal [major insights].

###### **Finding 1: [Brief Description]**

[Interpret meaning and connect to literature from Chapter 1.]

This finding aligns with Martinez's argument that [connection].<sup>14</sup> The result suggests [implication], which extends current understanding by demonstrating [contribution].

However, this finding contradicts Chen's claim that [different view].<sup>15</sup> This discrepancy may result from [methodological/contextual differences], highlighting [implication].

###### **Finding 2: [Brief Description]**

[Interpretation and literature connection]

###### **Finding 3: [Brief Description]**

[Interpretation and literature connection]

#### **Implications**

These findings have theoretical, practical, and policy implications.

**Theoretical Implications.** This research advances understanding of [topic] by [contribution]. The findings challenge [previous assumption] and suggest instead that [new perspective].

**Practical Implications.** Practitioners working with [population/issue] should consider [recommendation]. Specifically, [concrete application].

**Policy Implications.** Policymakers addressing [issue] might [recommendation based on findings].

#### **Limitations**

Several limitations warrant consideration:

First, [limitation and impact]. Future research might address this by [suggestion].

Second, [limitation]. This constrains [what cannot be claimed].

Third, [limitation and implications for interpretation].

#### **Recommendations for Future Research**

Based on these findings, future research should:

- Investigate [specific direction] to [purpose]
- Examine [topic] in [different context/population]
- Employ [methodological approach] to address [limitation]
- Explore [related question] raised by this study

14. Martinez, *Shortened Title*, page.

15. Chen, “Shortened Article Title,” page.

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## CONCLUSION

### CONCLUSION

[Synthesize key contributions—2-3 pages]

This study examined [purpose] through [method]. The research reveals that [key finding], which has important implications for understanding [topic].

The findings demonstrate [major contribution]. This matters because [significance]. While [acknowledge limitations], these results advance scholarly knowledge by [specific contribution].

Ultimately, this research suggests that [key takeaway]. As [relevant scholar] argues, “[quote].”<sup>16</sup> This study’s findings support and extend that claim by [connection].

Future research should continue investigating [direction], particularly [specific aspect]. Such work will further illuminate [topic] and contribute to [broader goal].

[Final paragraph provides closure and forward-looking perspective]

16. Final footnotes in thesis.

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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]

#### Books:

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

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

**Edited Books:**

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.

Last Name, First Name, and First Last Name. "Title of Article." *Journal Name* volume (Year): page range.

**Electronic Sources:**

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

**Dissertations:**

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

**Newspaper Articles:**

Last Name, First Name. "Title of Article." *Newspaper Name*, Month Day, Year. URL if online.

[Continue with all sources cited in footnotes, organized alphabetically]

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**APPENDIX A**

[Start new page]

**APPENDIX A**

**[TITLE OF APPENDIX IN ALL CAPS]**

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

[Format according to university requirements—typically single-spaced]

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## APPENDIX B

### APPENDIX B

#### [TITLE OF APPENDIX IN ALL CAPS]

[Additional materials]

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## CHICAGO/TURABIAN FORMATTING CHECKLIST

### General Format

- 12-pt Times New Roman or similar font
- 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
- Author name, degree, department, university, date
- All elements centered on page
- No page number on title page

### Front Matter

- Small Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv) centered at bottom
- Abstract 150-300 words
- Table of contents with accurate page numbers
- Lists of tables/figures
- Acknowledgments

### Body Text

- Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3) starting with Introduction
- Page numbers on every page
- Consistent heading hierarchy
- Paragraphs indented 0.5 inches
- No extra space between paragraphs

### Footnotes (Notes-Bibliography Style)

- Superscript numbers in text
- Consecutive numbering throughout thesis
- 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 Citation 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

### Block Quotes

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

### Tables and Figures

- Numbered consecutively (Table 1, Figure 1)
- Table number and title above table
- Figure number and caption below figure
- Referenced in text before appearing
- Source notes if using others' data

### Statistics Formatting

- Italicize statistical symbols: *M, SD, p, t, F, r*
- Report exact *p* values when possible
- Include effect sizes
- Use proper notation:  $t(45) = 3.21, p = .002$

## NOTES ON CHICAGO VS. TURABIAN

**Chicago Manual of Style** = Professional publishing standard  
**Turabian** = Student adaptation of Chicago

They are nearly identical. This template follows both. Check your university's specific requirements for: - Spacing preferences (some require double-spacing throughout) - Page number placement (bottom center vs. top right) - Chapter formatting variations - Front matter order

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