

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

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

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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[Centered on page]

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DEDICATION (Optional)

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

[Centered on page]

To [dedication text]

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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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].¹ Recent scholarship has demonstrated [finding].² However, significant questions remain regarding [gap].³

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].⁴

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.

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].⁵ 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].⁶ More recently, attention has shifted to [contemporary focus].⁷

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

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].¹⁰

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].¹¹ This instrument consists of [details: items, format, scoring]. Reliability

was established through [evidence], and validity demonstrated by [validation method].¹²

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	<i>N</i>	%
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].¹³ Specifically, [Group 1] ($M = [\text{mean}]$, $SD = [\text{SD}]$) scored significantly higher than [Group 2] ($M = [\text{mean}]$, $SD = [\text{SD}]$), $t([\text{df}]) = [\text{value}]$, $p = [\text{value}]$, $d = [\text{effect size}]$.

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].¹⁴ The result suggests [implication], which extends current understanding by demonstrating [contribution].

However, this finding contradicts Chen's claim that [different view].¹⁵ 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.

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]."¹⁶ 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.

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]

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]

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

[TITLE OF APPENDIX IN ALL CAPS]

[Additional materials]

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

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