

Thesis and Dissertation Formats for Civil Engineering Fields of Study

In order to encourage and facilitate the publication of CEE student M.S. theses and Ph.D. dissertations in journals and major conference proceedings, a student will be required to present at his or her defense either:

- 1) a M.S. thesis in traditional format or a Ph.D. dissertation in traditional format **PLUS for a Ph.D.** copies of two or more submission-ready papers based on his or her dissertation; or
- 2) a thesis or dissertation comprised of submission-ready papers (one or more for M.S.; two or more for Ph.D.), in which case the thesis or dissertation format should be
 - A. Traditional prefatory material
 - B. Brief introductory chapter summarizing thesis or dissertation purpose and content along with descriptive narrative linking the separate papers in subsequent chapters
 - A. Chapter containing paper in submission-ready format for major journal or conference proceedings
 - B. Chapter with additional paper (optional for M.S., required for Ph.D) as in C.
 - C. Optional chapter with optional paper
 - D. Ditto
 - E. Concluding chapter describing overall results and possible further work
 - F. Bibliography for total thesis or dissertation
 - G. Appendices with details and supplementary material not included in papers.

Commentary:

It is easier for a student to follow the second option above. There may be instances where the student wishes to have a single comprehensive document in traditional format. In that case the first option is available, but the student must simultaneously provide the Advisory Committee with copies of submission-ready papers developed from the thesis or dissertation research.

The student can submit papers that are either ready-for-review, in-review, in-press, or in-print and the student should be listed as sole or first author. Using the second format, the student would provide in each chapter distinct Reference and Acknowledgment sections, unnumbered section headings, separately numbered figures, tables, and equations. The second format must still satisfy Graduate School requirements. Specifications can be obtained at the Graduate Records Office.

The student's Advisory Committee retains the responsibility for maintaining high standards of quality for the thesis or dissertation, independent of any external reviews or acceptance that the paper(s) may have received. Thus, as the committee members read the submitted or included paper(s) they function similarly to a peer review panel for the paper(s). The committee may require revisions in the thesis or dissertation even if the paper(s) derived from the thesis/dissertation have already been accepted or printed. Committee involvement in the preparation of the thesis or dissertation well prior to the defense is essential.