

Virginia Tech Resources

Much has been written about how to write a research proposal and/or how to write a thesis or dissertation, as well as on how to survive the process. You can find online resources or books in libraries. Search on “dissertation guide” in Addison (VT Library). There are also numerous research methods textbooks that contain chapters on various aspects of the research process.

The following Virginia Tech references provide relevant information:

- **Preparation of Dissertation/Thesis/Major Paper.** Appendix I of the 2005 *Graduate Policies & Procedures & Course Catalog* (pp. 254-256) contains information about formatting. (http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/gcat/gcat_2005.pdf). Appendix I contains information on:
 - Electronic thesis and dissertation (ETD)
 - Thesis and dissertation document divisions (front matter, body matter, back matter)
 - Style
 - Numbering of pages
 - Multimedia objects
 - Copyrighting thesis or dissertation
 - Submission of thesis or dissertation
- **Plagiarism.** Appendix IIIA (pp. 268-271) of the above document contains useful information about plagiarism, what it is and how to avoid it. Also, check for articles about plagiarism in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. This is a very serious issue with potentially catastrophic consequences.
- **Electronic Theses and Dissertations**
Graduate school page: <http://www.grads.vt.edu/academics/completion/etd.html> contains information and links about electronic submission, copyright, ETD forms and templates, as well as a link to the ETD homepage (<http://etd.vt.edu>).
Digital Library and Archives page: <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/> has information & resources.
- **Manuscript Format Guidelines** from Dean Karen P. DePauw, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies & Dean of the Graduate School in a 2006 memorandum to Deans, Directors, and Department Heads. http://www.grads.vt.edu/graduate_school/monthly_memos/2006_03.html. (Copy included on page 4 of this document)
- **Citation and Style Manuals.** Free Web reference links from VT’s library. <http://www.lib.vt.edu/find/eref/toc/citation.html> or look for “citation and style manuals” under the HELP list in Tech’s library homepage.
NOTE: Style manuals typically refer to how to format manuscript for journal submission. The thesis or dissertation is in final form and its appearance should reflect a professional and final product; not what would be submitted to an editor. For example, see APA manual (5th edition, chapter 6) on “material other than journal articles” and sections on “theses, dissertations, and student papers.”
- **Other VT Library Resources.**
Doing research: <http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/research.html>
Dissertation and theses: <http://www.lib.vt.edu/find/etds.php>
Books on the writing process in Addison.