

Potential Options for Manuscript Format

As should be evident from Dean DePauw's memo, the guidelines for this alternative format for the dissertation are not hard and fast rules, but need to be negotiated with your chairperson and committee. Specifics would differ depending on whether coming from a behaviorist or an analytical modeler tradition; the soft sciences or the hard sciences.

The essence of this format is that the manuscript "chapters" of the dissertation should be typical of a publishable-quality article in your discipline. The substance and format used would therefore be dictated, in part, by what is published in your field. Likely sources for publication should be studied and modeled to optimize likelihood of publication.

Examples of potential options for manuscripts (using a 3 manuscript format)

The different manuscripts in a behavioral study could be in depth explorations of different versions of endogenous models. They could be explorations of the same basic issue in different populations or settings. They could be an extensive pilot with students and a validation of results with "real" people.

In an analytical study, the different manuscripts could present different simulation techniques for the same problem or testing different sets of variables. One manuscript could be a theoretical model explored via mathematical modeling techniques and the second an empirical validation of the results or a survey of practitioner opinion about the proposed model and theoretical results.

In a qualitative study, the different manuscripts could evolve as potential chapters of a subsequent book. The nature of the chapters would be dictated, in part, by the type of qualitative study.

Below are two of many possible versions of the three manuscript option:

- 1st manuscript is a publishable literature review, either in narrative format or as a meta-analysis. Look at published reviews in your field of study to determine what is typically published. This could conclude with a call for needed research.
 - 2nd manuscript describes an empirical study that results from the found need or gap in the literature and details the study that was done and the results.
 - 3rd manuscript extends the empirical study by using a different population, including new or different constructs, or in some way changing the parameters of the study or considering the problem from a different perspective.
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- 1st manuscript contains the details behind the development of a theoretical model. This would be grounded in the literature and prior knowledge and would provide a rationale for the proposed model.
 - 2nd manuscript would describe a validation of the model – either with an empirical study or a simulation study.
 - 3rd manuscript would describe an extension of the model.

Why the manuscript format? What are the benefits of this format?

If you are planning an academic career, writing and publishing will be your life. By using this format, you will (a) hopefully have one or more published articles by the time you graduate, and (b) have practice at writing journal articles, with the help and guidance of your committee.