

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management

Guidelines for Article-Style Dissertation (ASD)

Purpose:

The Department supports both traditional and article-style formats for dissertation. Although the traditional dissertation format is well understood, the article-style alternative has not been standardized even though it has been used by some PRTM faculty and committees. These guidelines are intended to help PRTM doctoral students, their advisors and committee in determining (1) if the ASD format is appropriate based on the nature of the study and (2) what the expectations are if the ASD is chosen. These guidelines will help ensure greater consistency in expectations among faculty and students and aid in facilitating the quality of article-style dissertations produced.

These guidelines were based on similar documents provided at other institutions. In particular, some parts of this document were adapted from the University of Utah PRT Department's Three Article Dissertation Guidelines (<http://www.health.utah.edu/prt/TAD.pdf>).

General Guidelines:

1. The nature of the study should guide the dissertation format. The student and advisor with guidance from the doctoral committee will make the decision.
2. The proposal should have research questions clearly outlined so that the committee members are able to identify the three articles that will emerge from the completed study.
3. Each ASD should consist of at least three full-length manuscripts to be sent for review to three *peer-reviewed* journals. Each manuscript should be assigned to a target journal approved by the committee.
4. Each ASD should have a coherent topic or common theme. It should include an introduction presenting the general theme of the research and a conclusion integrating the major findings. Additional chapters may be required based on the determination of the doctoral committee.
5. The student should be the lead author on all three main articles presented as part of the dissertation. These three articles, however, do not preclude other publications stemming from the dissertation research. The student does not need to be the lead author in these additional publications.
6. To fulfill the dissertation requirements, three articles should be ready to submit with the committee's approval to the three committee approved journals prior to the dissertation defense. The committee should agree that these articles are ready to be submitted.

7. If an article(s) is multi-authored, the student should clearly justify or clarify the contributions of the other authors in relationship to the research project. Issues of clarification should include origins of the conceptualization and design, the collection of data, analysis and interpretation of the data, and other significant areas of contribution. The student will be involved with every aspect of the dissertation.

Suggested ASD Model Layout:

- a) **Abstract:** There should be one overall abstract in the beginning of the dissertation providing a concise summary of the research (as required by the graduate school).
- b) **Introduction:** This introduction chapter describes the overall theme and purpose of the research. It also describes the research questions and how these questions are addressed in a logical and coordinated manner through three or more specific papers stemming from the research OR from three distinct studies that support the overall theme.
- c) **Article I:** This can be a complete empirical article with introduction, literature review, methods, results and conclusions for Study A. Alternatively this first article may be a “foundation” article such as a literature synthesis or theory/concept paper with a critical review of the literature and/or the relevant theories. This article may also propose a research agenda or a theory/conceptual model to be tested in the subsequent articles. This foundation article, however, should be written in such a way that it is publishable in the target journal (i.e., the journal proposed considers review or theory/concept papers).
- d) **Articles II, III, or more:** The remaining articles should report results of theory testing or primary/secondary data analyses for the studies. Each should be a complete article with introduction, literature review, methods, results and conclusions.
- e) **Conclusion:** A conclusion chapter should include a general discussion, conclusions, applications, and ideas for future research that come from the three or more articles.