



Manuscript Formatting Guidelines Thesis/Dissertations

Several programs at Tennessee Tech including Environmental Sciences, Biology, and Chemical Engineering conduct research best presented as discrete journal articles rather than a continuous document. Manuscript chapters better showcase individual projects and streamline publication, aligning with the program requirement for students to submit a manuscript for publication before graduation. The manuscript format also enables a more comprehensive dissertation and thesis because findings need not be abridged to fit a unified narrative. Recognizing the benefits of flexibility, the College of Graduate Studies has adopted manuscript-style formatting on a program basis. Your program must be approved to use this formatting option.

General formatting will adhere to existing standards as listed in the Thesis/Dissertation Handbook and website ([https://www.tnstate.edu/graduate-studies/thesis-dissertation-handbook](#)), including main AMCØr submission.

2. A thesis/dissertation with manuscript chapters must also include: (a) a Preface overviewing format and content, (b) a literature review that defines the scope of the thesis/dissertation by the committee, and (c) A concluding chapter. Unavoidably, this will duplicate some of the introductory material in each article/chapter.
3. A single, standard peer-reviewed publication for each manuscript chapter.
4. Examples of acceptable peer-reviewed formatting include the following: American Chemical Society journal, Environmental Science & Technology, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, and Environmental Letters.
5. Individual reference sections will directly follow each article/chapter.

This format option upholds disciplinary writing rigor with respect to diverse research approaches. The College of Graduate Studies organizational structure is in the best interest of student success and adoption.