

# THESIS GUIDE 2009-10: Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation at Oregon State University

Congratulations! You have arrived at an important step in the pursuit of your graduate degree—the writing of your thesis or dissertation. You have devoted considerable effort to a major scholarly project; you must now document that work.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

You will be guided and advised by your major professor, your examining committee, and the staff at the OSU Graduate School while you work on your thesis document. However, the ultimate responsibility for the document rests with you.

You are responsible for:

- Obtaining the necessary information to prepare the document,
- Meeting the deadlines associated with its preparation (see the Guide to Success, at [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad\\_school/current/success.html](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/current/success.html)),
- Submitting the necessary forms described in the Guide to Success, and
- Ensuring that your document conforms to all requirements in this Thesis Guide.

Your document must clearly state your objectives and conclusions, and present your results in a lucid and succinct manner. It must have a professional appearance and be user-friendly.

## GENERAL FORMAT

**Standard Document Format** refers to one thesis document that addresses a single theme. The Pretext Pages, Introduction, Conclusion, and Bibliography are **mandatory**. Your committee determines the additional chapters; you choose the chapter titles. The following parts comprise the Standard Document Format:

- Pretext Pages (see model pages illustrated in Figures 2-11)
- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Literature Review
- Chapter 3 – Materials and Methods
- Chapter 4 – Results
- Chapter 5 – Discussion
- Chapter 6 – Conclusion
- Bibliography
- Appendices (optional)

**Manuscript Document Format** is a single thesis document made up of several scholarly manuscripts or journal articles addressing a common theme. *All manuscripts/articles must be related or address a single, common theme.* You must be the primary author of each manuscript. Co-authors other than your major professor must be mentioned in a Contribution of Authors page (see Figure 9, page 8) in the pretext section of the document. Formatting should be consistent for each journal, and must follow the thesis guide formatting not the separate journal formats. The following parts comprise the Manuscript Document Format:

- Pretext Pages (see model pages illustrated in Figures 2-11)
- Chapter 1 – General Introduction (common introduction linking all manuscripts thematically)

- Chapter 2 – First Manuscript
- Chapter 3 – Second Manuscript
- Chapter 4 – General Conclusion (common conclusion linking all manuscripts thematically)
- Bibliography (common bibliography covering all manuscripts, although each manuscript may have its own reference section)
- Appendices – (optional)

Note: Within the larger Manuscript Format thesis document, Chapter Heading Pages (see Figure 1 below) precede individual manuscripts that have already been published. Manuscripts must uniformly conform to these thesis guidelines.

Page #
<b>MANUSCRIPT TITLE CENTERED HERE</b>
Your name and other authors
Journal Address of Journal Issue manuscript appears in

Figure 1. Chapter Heading Page for Manuscript Document Format

## PAGE LAYOUT AND TEXT REQUIREMENTS

### **Margin Requirements:**

The left margin must be at least 1.5 inches (recommend 1.7). All other margins must be at least 1 inch, preferably 1.5 for top margin. Nothing may invade a margin. Every page must meet margin requirements.

### **Page Numbering:**

Pretext pages: Do not number pretext pages.

Body: The body of the text, including Appendix/Appendices and Bibliography, are numbered consecutively with Arabic Numbers (e.g. 2, 3, etc.). Page one, although counted, is not numbered. Most software comes with the ability to suppress page one numbering. If your software does not have this ability, remove the page number from page one manually.

Page numbers must appear at the top right corner of pages, approximately 1 inch from the top edge of the page and at least 1 inch from the right edge of the page. Page numbers must not invade any margins. There should be at least one return between the page number and the first line of text.

### **Title:**

Your document begins with its title repeated and centered on page one. Titles longer than one line should be single-spaced. The document's title does not count as a heading level.

**Text Spacing:**

Use *either* double *or* 1.5 line spacing for the body of text. Do not mix the spacing. Use single spacing in the following situations:

- For headings longer than one line
- For figure titles/legends
- For bibliographical and reference citations
- For direct quoted material
- For items listed within the body of the text (optional)
- Where indicated in the pretext section

## TEXT FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

**Font:** Use regular, unadorned print, 10- to 12-point size for text (headings may be 14-point only if *all* headings are 14-point). Use the same font style and font size throughout.

**Headings:** Chapter names are Level 1 headings. Subheadings of a chapter are Level 2 headings. Subheadings of chapter subheadings are Level 3 headings, and so forth. Each level must look different from the other levels. Headings of the same level must look the same throughout the document. All headings, regardless of level, must be the same font size. Either number all headings *or* number none (See figures 10a and 10b). Single space headings that are more than one line. Use adequate and consistent spacing between the headings and the text. A minimum of two subheadings may be used within a given level. Each level 1 heading begins a new page.

**Appendix Heading Page:** A numbered, counted page should be inserted in front of your document's appendix/appendices. The word APPENDIX (or APPENDICES) should be centered about 1/3 down this page. This heading page and its page number should appear in the Table of Contents.

**Blocked Quotes:** Use Blocked Quotes for quoted material longer than three lines. Use the same font size as within the text. Single-space the quotation, and indent it evenly on both sides. There is no need to justify quotations.

**References:** Use the same font size as within the text. Choose a reference style with the guidance of your major professor and your committee and be *consistent*. Single-space each citation, and use adequate and consistent spacing between citations.

**Endnotes:** Footnotes collected at the end of a chapter are called endnotes. Use the same font size as within the text. Single-space each endnote, and use adequate and consistent spacing between endnotes.

**Orphan Lines/Headers/Footnotes:** No orphan lines may appear at the top or bottom of a page. No headers or footers may be used. Footnotes are acceptable.

## FIGURES

Figures may be located in one of two places in your document. You must choose one system, and use it consistently throughout your work.

1. Insert the figure within the text, as close as possible after the first reference is made to it.
2. Place your figures at the end of the chapter in which it is first discussed or referenced.

**Figure Labels and Captions:** The definition of a figure is quite broad. “Figures” include charts, diagrams, drawings, examples, graphs, illustrations, maps, photographs, etc. In the majority of cases, if it’s not a table, it is a figure. A figure’s labels denote the type of figure and its number, and a figure’s caption is its title and description. Every figure must have a label and caption unless there is only one figure of its type in the document. Use consecutive label numbers by order of appearance within the text. Each figure must have a unique number. Illustrations that take up more than one page should have the label followed by “(Continued)” on the second page. Label and caption font size is the same as body text size. Use adequate (at least one return) and consistent spacing between and figure and its label and caption and between the figure and text. A figure’s label and caption should be placed outside its boundaries, commonly above a table and below an illustration. If both a figure and its label and caption do not fit on one page, place only the label on the page with the figure, and place the label and caption on a separate page that precedes the figure (called a legend page). Single-space the label and caption and center it 1/3 of the way down the page. Include no other text on this page. List the page number of the legend page in the pre-text list.

## TABLES

A table is broadly defined as a compact, systematic list of data (facts, figures, values, etc.), generally arranged in columns and/or rows. All tables must be listed in the pre-text pages’ *List of Tables*.

**Table Captions:** Are located above the table, on the same page as the table. Table captions should contain the illustration number, i.e., Table 1 and its title. You may number tables consecutively throughout the text or within the chapter, i.e., Table 1.1 for the first table in Chapter 1 and Table 2.1 for the first table in Chapter 2. As always, pick one method and use it consistently throughout your document.

**Landscaping:** Because of their shape, some figures may need to be placed crosswise on a page. If so, the top of the figure should be at the left margin as viewed normally (i.e. portrait orientation), and the caption should be parallel to the right margin. The page number keeps the same location and orientation as all other page numbers in the text. Margin requirements apply.

**Mounting:** Figures should be photocopied directly onto the cotton bond paper whenever possible. If it is necessary to use original figures, they must be mounted onto the cotton bond paper with a spray adhesive. Rubber cement should not be used, because it yellows and deteriorates over time. To test if your figure is correctly mounted, put your fingernail under an edge and try to lift it away from the cotton bond paper—if it lifts even slightly at any edge, you must fasten it again.

**Color:** Color used to differentiate lines, bars, or segments will reproduce as shades of gray on microfilm and in photocopies. Choose high-contrast colors that will remain distinct in the black-and-white process, or use symbols with or without the color. Photocopy the image directly onto cotton bond paper or use a laser printer. Do not print with water-based ink.

**Oversized Figures:** There are 3 ways of managing the inclusion of oversized figures:

- Reduction: Photographically reduce the size of figures to meet margin requirements. Page numbers and figure captions must remain the same font size as the text.
- Accordion Fold: The final, folded page must be 11 inches in height and no more than 8 inches wide. Fold the page from right to left, making the final folded width 8 inches. Fold the page a second time from left to right so the page number appears in the same position as all other pages in the text.
- Pocket Addition: Valley Library will attach a pocket to the back binding and fold the figure to fit it. Doctoral students must submit an extra (third) copy of the figure.

## DOCUMENT PARTS –IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Regardless of general format, the thesis includes particular parts in an established order as listed below. Model pages are provided for most pretext pages. In all cases, margin requirements apply (see above) and the same font style/size must be used in the body of the text and elsewhere. All titles of pretext pages should be formatted identically with respect to font size and style.

### I. Pretext Pages

**A. Flyleaf**—a blank page

**B. Abstract** (see Figures 2, 3, 4). An abstract is a summary of the document’s purpose, methods, major findings, and conclusions. All library copy abstracts must include the major professor’s original signature. Your name (designated “Student Name”) must appear exactly the same throughout the document. In all cases, use the official name of the major, found in the Graduate Catalog pages 9-13. Underline where indicated.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Student Name for the degree of  
Master of Degree Name in  
Official Name of Major presented  
on Defense Date<sup>A</sup>.  
Title: Underlined Title here.

Abstract approved:

---

Major I. Professor<sup>B</sup>

Begin text here, using the same  
spacing, font style and font size as  
within the body of the text in your  
document.

Figure 2. Abstract Page for Master’s Degree

<sup>A</sup>The line breaks in these four lines do not imply hard returns. Hard return after the defense date only.

<sup>B</sup>Include major professor’s middle initial unless there is none. Do not include his/her title. Co-major Professors may share the same signature line; put both names below the line.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF

Student Name for the degree of  
Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary  
Studies in First Concentration<sup>A</sup>,  
Second Concentration, and Third  
Concentration presented on  
Defense Date<sup>B</sup>.  
Title: Underlined Title here.

Abstract approved:

---

Major I. Professor<sup>C</sup>

Begin text here, using the same  
spacing, font style and font size as  
within the body of the text in your  
document.

Figure 3. Abstract Page for MAIS Degree

<sup>A</sup>Use official Major names for Areas of Concentration (see *Graduate Catalog*, pages 9-14).

<sup>B</sup>The line breaks in these six lines do not imply hard returns. Hard return after the defense date only.

<sup>C</sup>Include major professor’s middle initial unless there is none. Do not include his/her title. Co-major Professors may share the same signature line: put both names below the line.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION OF

Student Name for the degree of  
Doctor of Degree Name in  
Official Name of Major presented  
on Defense Date<sup>A</sup>.  
Title: Underlined Title here.

Abstract approved:

---

Major I. Professor<sup>B</sup>

Begin text here, using the same  
spacing, font style and font size as  
within the body of the text in your  
document.<sup>C</sup>

Figure 4. Abstract Page for Doctoral Degree

<sup>A</sup>The line breaks in these four lines do not imply hard returns. Hard return after the defense date only.

<sup>B</sup>Include major professor's middle initial unless there is none. Do not include his/her title. Co-major Professors may share the same signature line; put both names below the line.

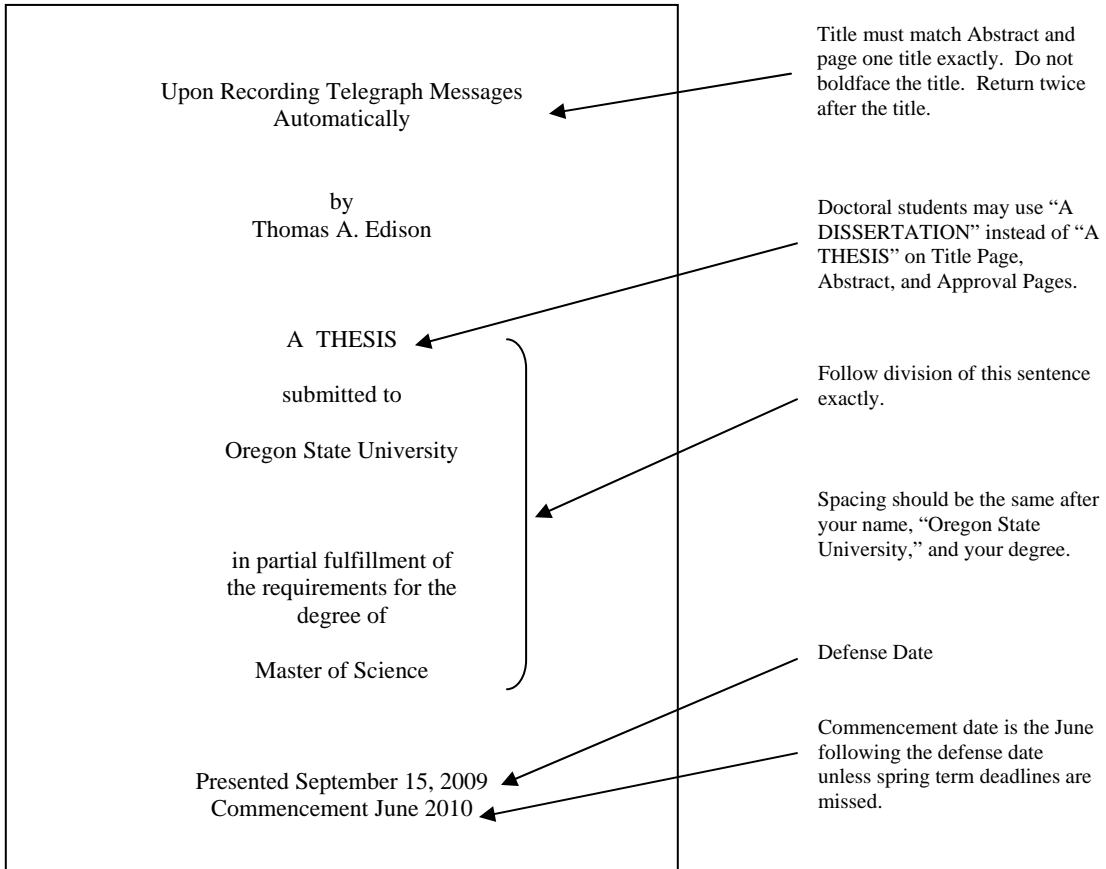
<sup>C</sup>Doctoral abstracts are limited to 350 words maximum.

**C. Copyright Page** (see Figure 5)—optional but recommended. Print your name exactly as you did in the Abstract. Wording should begin 10 returns from the first line.

©Copyright by Your Name  
Defense Date  
All Rights Reserved

Figure 5. Optional Copyright Page.

**D. Title Page** (see Figure 6)



**E. Approval Page** (see Figure 7). On the Approval Page, the Major Professor represents the major. The Approval Page considers your advisor as your major professor, regardless of his/her official rank or tenure home. Official major names and department names can be found in the *Graduate Catalog*. Some majors and departments have the same name while others differ. The major name used on the Approval Page should exactly match the one on the Abstract. All signatures collected on the library copies' approval pages must be original. Your signature constitutes consent to have your document available for public reference in Valley Library.

Master of Science thesis of Thomas A. Edison  
presented on September 15, 2009.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_

Major Professor, representing Name of Major

\_\_\_\_\_

Head of the Name of Department

\_\_\_\_\_

Dean of the Graduate School

I understand that my thesis will become part of the permanent collection of Oregon State University libraries. My signature below authorizes release of my thesis to any reader upon request.

\_\_\_\_\_

Thomas A. Edison, Author

**Alternate wordings for signature lines:**

**Wording with 2 Major Professors**

Co-Major Professor, representing Name of Major

Co-Major Professor, representing Name of Major

Head/Chair of the Name of Major

Dean of the Graduate School

**Wording with Dual Majors**

Co-Major Professor, representing Name of 1<sup>st</sup> Major

Co-Major Professor, representing Name of 2<sup>nd</sup> Major

Head/Chair of the 1<sup>st</sup> Department Name

Head/Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Department Name

Dean of the Graduate School

**Department Is A College or School**

Example: Major is Pharmacy

Major Professor, representing Pharmacy

Dean of the College of Pharmacy

Dean of the Graduate School

**Wording for MAIS**

Major Professor, representing Name of Major Area of Concentration

Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

Program

Dean of the Graduate School

Figure 7. Standard Approval Page

**F. Acknowledgments** (see Figure 8)—optional but recommended. The exact content of this page is up to you. Use same text spacing either 1.5 or double space.

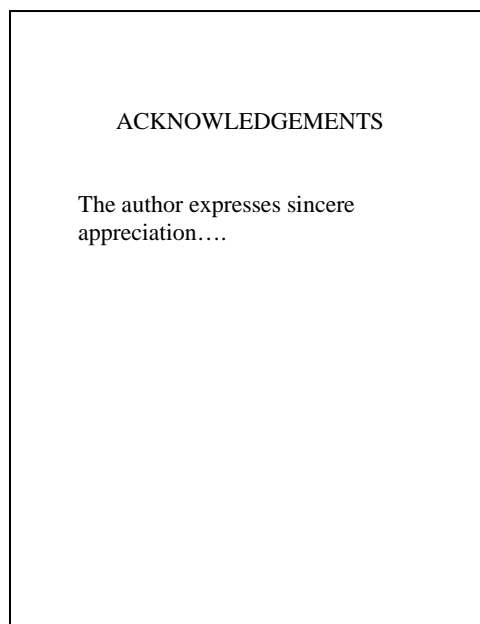


Figure 8. Acknowledgement Page.

**G. Contribution of Authors** (see Figure 9)—manuscript document format only

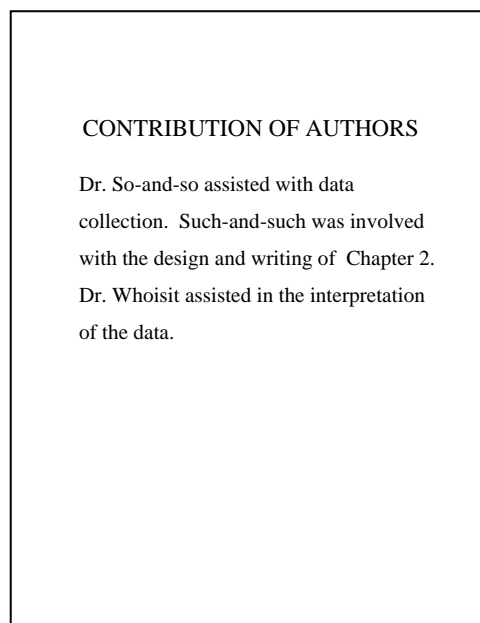


Figure 9. Contribution of Authors (manuscript format only)

**H. Table of Contents** (see figures 10a and 10b, next page). Ensure that the page numbers accurately reflect where the headings appear in the text. Listing the chapter headings in the Table of Contents is required; listing the subheadings is optional, and you may list some levels but not others. Levels are denoted by indention in the Table of Contents. Wording, spelling, and capitalization of headings in the Table of Contents must match the heading in the body of the text exactly. If headings are numbered in the Table of Contents, they must be numbered correspondingly in the text.

List appendix or appendices (if applicable) in the Table of Contents or in a separate List of Appendices. In either case, list the Appendices Heading Page (see page 3) in the Table of Contents. When listing an individual appendix, include its title.

If the Table of Contents is more than one page, subsequent pages should be headed “TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued).”

Return twice between the TABLE OF CONTENTS heading and the first item in the table.

Do not underline, bold, or italicize in the Table of Contents (unless the heading is a scientific species name)

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	<u>Page</u>
1 Chapter Title.....	1
1.1 Level 2 Heading.....	12
1.2 Level 2 Heading .....	15
1.2.1 Level 3 Heading .....	17
1.2.2 Level 3 Heading .....	18
1.2.3 Level 3 Heading .....	25
1.3 Level 2 Heading .....	28
2 Chapter Title .....	32
2.1 Level 2 Heading .....	36
2.2 Level 2 Heading .....	41
2.2.1 Level 3 Heading .....	45
2.2.2 Level 3 Heading .....	46
3 Chapter Title .....	53
3.1 Level 2 Heading .....	53
3.2 Level 2 Heading .....	59
Bibliography .....	67
Appendices .....	70
Appendix A Title .....	71
Appendix B Title .....	83

Figure 10a. Table of Contents with Numbering

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	<u>Page</u>
Chapter Title .....	1
Level 2 Heading .....	12
Level 2 Heading .....	15
Level 3 Heading .....	17
Level 3 Heading .....	18
Level 3 Heading .....	25
Level 2 Heading .....	28
Chapter Title .....	32
Level 2 Heading .....	36
Level 2 Heading .....	41
Level 3 Heading .....	45
Level 3 Heading .....	46
Chapter Title .....	53
Level 2 Heading .....	53
Level 2 Heading .....	59
Bibliography .....	67
Appendices .....	70
Appendix A Title .....	71
Appendix B Title .....	83

Figure 10b. Table of Contents without Numbering

**I. List of Figures** (see figures 11a and 11b). Lists are required if two or more figures appear within the text.

**J. List of Tables** (see figures 11a and 11b). Lists are required if two or more tables appear within the text.

Choose one of the two methods of numbering in the model pages illustrated in Figures 11a and 11b and use it for both Lists of Figures and Lists of Tables. If a list is longer than one page, subsequent pages should be headed “LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)” or “LIST OF TABLES (Continued).” The first sentence of the figure or table caption must be listed, and the wording must match the text exactly. List only one page number per figure or table. When there is a legend page in front of a figure (see information on FIGURES below), list the legend page only. Figures in the appendices are listed on a separate List of Appendix Figures list.

Return twice between the LIST OF FIGURES/TABLES heading and the first listing.

Single-space listings with a single return if double spacing is used in the text, or 2 returns if 1.5 spacing is used.

LIST OF FIGURES	
<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. Name of the figure.....	29
2. First sentence of the legend matches the text exactly .....	34
3. List only one page number .....	41
4. Keep numbers and words in separate columns .....	47

Figure 11a. List of Figures/Tables with Consecutive Numbering

LIST OF TABLES	
<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.1 Title of the Table.....	22
1.2 Spacing requirements are the same as for the List of Figures.....	29
2.1 A List of Appendix Tables would look the same .....	38
2.2 All pretext headings should look the same...	44

Figure 11b. List of Figures/Tables with Numbering by Chapter

**K. List of Appendices** (optional). If list of appendices is short, it may be attached to the Table of Contents. For more than 5 appendices, or list different heading levels are listed in the appendices, a separate List of Appendices is required. If two or more figures appear in the appendices, a List of Appendix Figures and/or a List of Appendix Tables are required.

**L. List of Appendix Figures.** For two or more figures in the appendices.

**M. List of Appendix Tables.** For two or more tables in the appendices.

**N. Other Lists.** If you are including other lists, such as lists of abbreviations, nomenclature, symbols, and so forth, each list must have its own page. The elements of these lists do not need numbering or page numbers.

**O. Dedication** (optional) If desired, you may dedicate your document to the honor of someone. Dedications are usually short. Margin requirements apply. Use the same font/font size as text body. Arrangement of page is at your discretion.

**P. Preface** (optional)

**II. Body of Text** (follow standard *or* manuscript document format)

**III. Bibliography**

**IV. Appendix/Appendices** (optional)

**V. Flyleaf** (a blank page not numbered)

## PRINTING AND PACKAGING

**Cotton Bond Paper:** Cotton bond paper contains a minimum of 25% cotton bond fiber and has a weight of at least 16 lbs. (Standard cotton bond is usually 20 lbs.) Each sheet has a watermark with the cotton content noted. Cotton bond paper should be white for all documents and should not have texture or design lines. Purchase enough to use the same paper throughout the document and for any pages that are corrected after submission. Flyleaf pages are also the same paper.

**Printing Specifications:** The document's text must appear on *only one side* of the cotton bond paper. It is preferable to photocopy the final document onto cotton bond paper; however, it is permissible to use a laser printer. Pages that have bleeding ink will be returned. Pages with broken text, ink blemishes, and crooked text must be recopied. Remember to examine the pagination of your document *before* you put it on cotton bond paper. Pages from page 2 onward should have consecutive page numbers that are the same font size and located in the same position. After the copying process is complete, count the pages again to be sure none were skipped.

**Envelope Preparation & Electronic Submission:** Submit one PDF copy of your thesis/dissertation electronically to ScholarsArchive, for instructions refer to our website at - [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad\\_school/current/etd\\_guide.html](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/current/etd_guide.html). For the file name use your last name, first name, middle initial, and year – example; EdisonThomasA2009. Submit one paper copy of your thesis to the Graduate School in a manila envelope with a metal clasp back closure. Choose an envelope that is appropriate to the size of your document. Pages put in envelopes that are too large or too small may be damaged before they reach the library. Tape a copy of the document's Title Page (See figure 6) to the outside front of the envelope. Additional pages, copyright permission letters, enclosures such as maps and disks, and so forth should be placed inside the envelope. Oversized attachments may be packaged in separate envelopes or tubes that are properly labeled with your name and the title of your document. Documents that are not properly packaged will not be accepted at the time of submission. Master students submit two extra Title pages for certification processing.

**Doctoral Students Only:** An extra Abstract (see figure 4) with an original signature and three extra Title pages printed on the cotton bond paper, must be submitted with your library copies, used for submitting to ProQuest and archiving. Also submit the microfilming forms; a PDF can be downloaded from our website at - [http://il.proquest.com/dissertationagree/umi\\_agreement.pdf](http://il.proquest.com/dissertationagree/umi_agreement.pdf). Please use the username “dissertations” and the password “publish” when prompted. Print out pages 4 and 5, page 6 is optional and used when paying for copyright fees (\$65.00) for an ISBN number. On page 4 we recommend Traditional Publishing option, as ProQuest will charge \$160.00 for Open Access Publishing and open access is free through ScholarsArchive. Pay microfilm fee of \$65 to OSU Cashier’s Office and bring receipt to the Graduate School along with the final copy of your dissertation.

## COPYRIGHT PERMISSION

To answer questions regarding copyright law, OSU has a Copyright Center (541-737-3978).  
Website: <http://printmail.oregonstate.edu/copyright>

You should assume that any material from other sources that you use in your thesis, including text, pictures, musical compositions, graphs, charts, cartoons, and so forth, is copyrighted. You must obtain *written permission* from the copyright owner to use it. To obtain written permission, send the copyright owner a concise letter specifying your intended use and allow ample time for a response. If you get no response or if you are denied permission, *you must remove the copyrighted material from your document.*

A doctoral student should send out copyright permission requests *at least four* months before his or her defense date. Be sure to state that copies of the document may be distributed by ProQuest by request.

You must submit a copy (keep the original in a safe place) of all letters granting the use of copyrighted material to the Graduate School.

In the US, if you have created an original document, it is automatically copyrighted for the period of your lifetime plus fifty years. *Formal notice or registration is not necessary*; nevertheless, you should include a copyright page (see figure 5) in your document to alert readers that you are the copyright owner and that you acknowledge your legal rights. You may wish to register your copyright, though this step is optional. Registration establishes public record of your document, its copyright and your name and address. Students who choose to register the copyright personally should contact: Registration of Copyright, Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

## ETHICS

Ethical research practice requires you to avoid:

**Plagiarism:** failure to acknowledge the work of others by using proper citations and obtaining written permission to use copyrighted material.

**Fabrication:** the creation of fictitious research results.

**Falsification:** alteration of research results by misrepresentation or selective reporting of findings.