

Dissertation Notes

1. The dissertation consists of:

- A critical review of the literature
- A methods chapter including hypotheses tested and methods applied
- 2-3 manuscripts intended for publication
- A summary chapter with proposed next research steps in the field

2. Timeline for graduation:

The dissertation – in its final, complete form – must be submitted to the Graduate School 6 weeks before the end of the semester in which you wish to graduate; thus, the dissertation defense should take place 8-10 weeks prior to the end of the semester to allow for final changes before submission to the Graduate School.

Thus, working backwards:

- To graduate Fall Semester 2012, last day of the semester = December 15, 2012
 - Submission to Graduate School = November 3, 2012
 - Dissertation defense = October 6 – 20, 2012
 - Final draft of dissertation presented to committee (3 weeks prior to defense) = September 15 – 29, 2012
 - First full draft of dissertation presented to committee (expecting 2 months to finalize draft) = July 15 – 29, 2012
- To graduate Spring Semester 2013, last day of the semester = May 2, 2013
 - Submission to Graduate School = March 21, 2013
 - Dissertation defense = February 21 – March 7, 2013
 - Final draft of dissertation presented to committee (3 weeks prior to defense) = January 31 – February 14, 2013
 - First full draft of dissertation presented to committee (expecting 2 months to finalize draft) = November 31 – December 14, 2012

Specific formatting of the dissertation is required, prior to submission to the Graduate School. The Vanderbilt University Thesis Guide can be found here:

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/gradschool/form_locator/thesis_and_dissertation_submission/thesis_guide.pdf