This Bluebook has been created to describe the salient features of the entire Capstone process.

**INITIATION OF YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY**

**Familiarize yourself with your Plan of Study:**

- **Plan of Study:**
  A Plan of Study for every student is required to be submitted to Graduate Studies and Research by the end of the first semester (Year One). This document should be signed by the student, Advisor, Program Director and Chairperson prior to its submission to the Dean, School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies, for approval.

  A Plan of Study signifies that the student has been advised and is aware of all requirements for successful matriculation. This document will be used for audit purposes as the student matriculates through the Program of Study. If any change in a student’s course of study takes place, the student must inform the Director, Education Graduate Programs, so that it can be reflected in the Plan of Study and the revised Plan of Study will be sent to Graduate Studies and Research.

**THE DOCTORAL CAPSTONE COMPLETION STAGES & THE PROCESS OVERVIEW**

**PHASE – 1: Capstone Declaration and Constitution of the Advisory Committee**

Upon entry into the program, all students will be assigned an Academic Advisor who will advise them in academic matters until the appointment of their Advisory Committee Chair.

- **Capstone Option Declaration** – Students should fill out the Capstone Option Declaration Form by the end of Year One, Summer-I. The Capstone Option Declaration Form is available in the Education Graduate Programs Handbook.

- **Constitution of the Advisory Committee** – Students must constitute their Advisory Committee by the end of their 3rd semester. The revised Advisory Committee Form is available in the Office of the Director, Education Graduate Programs.

**Composition of the Advisory Committee:**

*For Dissertation:* The Advisory Committee will consist of 5 members including the Chair who must be a full-time faculty of the Department of Education. Among the members, at least 2 must be from the Department of Education; 1 may be from any other department within Delaware State University, and the external member must be from outside of the University.

*For Case Study Analysis/Project Study:* The Advisory Committee will consist of 4 members including the Chair who must be a full-time faculty of the Department of Education. Among the members, at least 1 must be from the Department of Education; 1 may be from any other department within Delaware State University, and the external member must be from outside of the University.

*All the committee members must have a terminal degree*

- ** Students must start envisaging the outline of their capstone once they have their Advisory Committee in place.**

**PHASE – 2: Prospectus and Proposal Preparation**

- **Students should start developing their Prospectus in Year Two, Spring-II – EDUC 835 will provide students with information about the scope of their research.**

- **Students should complete their Prospectus in Year Two, Summer-I – as a part of EDUC 840.**

- **Students must start working on their Proposal (Chapters 1, 2 and 3) – as a part of EDUC 840.**

- **Students should complete and finalize their Proposal – as a part of EDUC 841.**

  When the Chair of the Advisory Committee finds that the student has satisfactorily completed Chapters 1, 2 and 3, it will be the time to schedule the Proposal Defense.
Process for Scheduling the Proposal Defense (for all Capstone options):

- Finalization of the date of the Proposal Defense: The Committee Chair, in consultation with other committee members, the Department Chair and the Director, Education Graduate Programs, will finalize the date for the Proposal Defense.

- Once the date is finalized, the Committee Chair will submit the Proposal Defense Scheduling Form in the Office of Education Graduate Programs.

- **Students are required to submit of a clean copy of their proposal to their Committee Chair for onward submission to the Director, Education Graduate Programs, at least 72 hours before the Proposal Defense.**

(iv) **Proposal Presentation/Defense** – as a part of EDUC 841.

- Students will present their proposal before their Advisory Committee on the day of the Proposal Defense.

- **Proposal Outcomes** – to be decided by the Advisory Committee Chair and the committee members.

- Student will carry out the changes recommended by the committee, if any.

- The Committee Chair will review the revised proposal and will certify that the recommended changes have been carried out and will then submit the proposal in the Office of Education Graduate Programs for further review.

- Review of the proposal by the Director, Education Graduate Programs, Department Chair and the College Dean will take place.

**Please note:** For review and feedback at each stage, a clean copy of the proposal will be submitted by the student through his or her Advisory Committee Chair.

- **Proposal Approval Form** - to be completed and signed by the Committee Chair, the Director, Education Graduate Programs, the Department Chair, and the College Dean

**PHASE – 3: The IRB Process & Achieving Candidacy**

(i) **Completion of IRB Application or the IRB Exemption Form** – After the successful Proposal Defense, the student, in consultation with the Committee Chair, will fill out the IRB Application or the IRB Exemption Form, as the case may be.

(ii) **Submission of the IRB Application or the IRB Exemption Form** – The student will submit the IRB Application or the IRB Exemption Form and a clean copy of the proposal in the Office of Education Graduate Programs.

**Important to Note:** The Office of Sponsored Research has specified dates for receiving the IRB Application/Exemption forms for its consideration. These dates are available on its website (https://sgaes.desu.edu/research/sponsored-programs/other-information) as well as in the Office of Education Graduate Programs. Therefore, please plan your Capstone completion time and intended graduation by taking into consideration the time required for the IRB process.

(iii) **Submission of the Application for Advancement to Candidacy:** This application is to be submitted in the Office of Education Graduate Programs no later than two semesters prior to graduation so that it can be sent to Graduate Studies and Research to meet its deadline. Students are eligible to fill out the Candidacy Form only after:

- The successful Proposal Defense;
- The receipt of the IRB Approval/Exemption letter;
- The submission of a minimum 10 pages research planning document.

Upon the IRB Approval/Exemption, a student will proceed with the data collection (as a part of EDUC 842) and will start working to complete the final Capstone document. While completing the research document, a student is required to adhere to the guidelines provided in the Delaware State University Thesis & Dissertation Handbook issued by Graduate Studies and Research. The relevant portion of these guidelines are also attached in this Bluebook as Appendix A)
PHASE – 4: Writing the Capstone

Course EDUC 843: Research Seminar IV will provide appropriate guidance to students on how to write a Capstone.

PHASE – 5: Graduation Application & Degree Audit

Completion of the Graduation Application, Degree Audit Form and submission of the unofficial transcripts demonstrating completion of all the course work:

Students who expect to graduate in a particular semester must submit the Graduation Application and complete the Degree Audit Form in consultation with the Office of Education Graduate Programs before the date as noted in the Academic Calendar for a particular semester.

- Important to Note: If the student, somehow, is not able to graduate in the intended semester, he or she must fill out a new Graduation Application for the semester in which he or she intends to graduate.

PHASE – 6: Capstone Defense

(i) Once the final capstone document is ready, the Committee Chair, in consultation with the student, will work to schedule the date for the final Defense:

a. Committee Chair will:
   i. Finalize the Capstone Defense date in consultation with the members of the Advisory Committee, the Department Chair and the Director, Education Graduate Programs.
   ii. Submit the Capstone Defense Scheduling Form in the Office of Education Graduate Programs. This form MUST be submitted at least 4 weeks before the actual Defense date, no exceptions.

(ii) The Final Defense (Capstone presentation – as a part of EDUC 844)

- The student is required to submit a final copy of the Capstone to the Committee Chair at least 10 working days before the date of Defense.

- The Committee Chair will circulate a copy of this final document among the committee members and submit its copy to the Director, Education Graduate Programs, and the Department Chair for their review at least one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled date of Defense.

- The student will successfully defend the Capstone on the scheduled date of Defense.

- Submission of the Final Defense Outcomes - The Committee Chair will fill up the Report of Doctoral Capstone Outcomes Form and submit it in the Office of Education Graduate Programs within three (3) working days after the defense.

- The Committee Chair will review and certify that the recommended changes have been carried out. The chair will then submit this document for further review in the Office of Education Graduate Programs.

- The final Capstone will be reviewed by the Director, Education Graduate Programs, Department Chair and the College Dean. To ensure the quality of the final Capstone, this review is quite comprehensive and will need 3 to 4 weeks’ time.

  Please note: For review and feedback at each stage, a clean copy of the Capstone will be submitted by the Committee Chair after advising the student to carry out the corrections suggested at each stage.

- Completion of Capstone Approval Page – by the Committee Chair, Director, Education Graduate Programs, Department Chair, and the College Dean.
PHASE – 7: Capstone Submission Process

Approval of the final capstone by the Dean, School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies.
- The Doctoral Capstone Outcomes Form will be sent to Graduate Studies and Research by the due date.
- Students will submit a copy of the final Capstone via ProQuest with Graduate Studies and Research for its review and approval on or before the due date mentioned in the Graduate School’s Academic Calendar.
- The student will be required to pay the binding charges in the Library for the number of the personal copies of the Capstone as requested by him or her.

Other Important Additional Information:
- Change of Admission Status: A student who was admitted to the program provisionally must get the provisional status changed to unconditional well in time before graduation. Otherwise, it may result in a delay in graduation.
1. **CASE STUDY ANALYSIS**

Components:

*Ch 1. Introduction*: Selecting a problem that will be the focus of the analysis in the case study, and stating the purpose of the case study.

*Ch 2. Literature Review*: Review of related literature that will provide theoretical base (grounded theory) or conceptual framework to the study (Dependent/Independent Variables, Instrumentation and Logical Progression)

*Ch 3. Methodology*: Description of the three selected case studies. Examining the methodologies of the selected case studies, and how the data available in the three selected case studies will be used for the purpose of analysis/investigation. Significance of each case study.

*Ch 4. Comparative Analysis*: Undertaking comparative analysis, identifying common themes, specifying the differences and similarities between the three selected case studies and synthesizing the outcomes in relation to the three case studies. Drawing the findings on the basis of analysis.

*Ch 5. Conclusions*: Proposing solutions that address the focus problem raised in the case study and linking the solution to the sound research to draw conclusions.

2. **PROJECT STUDY**

Components: **Abstract**: It will:

- Describe the overall study problem being addressed and indicate why it is important (e.g. who would benefit if the problem is solved)
- Identify the rationale for the problem and the project
- Identify the theoretical foundations
- Summarize the key research design/guiding question
- Describe the overall research design, methods and specific data analytic procedures

For the final project document, **Abstract**, students will:

- Identify the key results and recommendations
- Provide main conclusions and implications of the project for the positive social change and applications to the local problem

Chapter – 1: **Introduction**: Provide an overview of the Doctoral Project Study and of the contents of this section.

- **Description of the problem**: What is the local problem that prompted the study? Describe the details of how the problem unfolds both in the local context and the larger population or education situation.
- **Rationale for choosing the problem**
- **Evidence of the problem at the local level**: This subsection discusses what school, district, community, state, nation, and/or international data indicate about this issue.
- **Evidence of the problem from the professional literature**: What does the research literature say about this issue? Clearly demonstrate that the problem exists in a larger context.
- **Definitions of special terms**: Any special terms associated with the problem are defined and cited here.
- **Significance of the project**: This subsection discusses the significance of the problem – why it is important to the local context and to the larger educational context.
- **Guiding/research question**: What is the guiding or research question that will help to determine what the project will be? This would include briefly summarizing past research on the topic specifying the local problem, a gap in past research if applicable and the type of research needed to address the local problem.

Chapter – 2: **Review of Related Literature**

- **Review of literature with theoretical base/conceptual framework**: This section discusses the theoretical base/conceptual framework related to the problem in a manner that justifies the investigation of this problem as a worthwhile scholarly endeavor.
- **Critical review that documents the broader problem associated with the local problem**: It includes a critical review that documents the broader problem associated with the local problem addressed in the study and is drawn primarily from recent articles published in acceptable peer-reviewed journals or sound academic journals and texts.
- **Synthesis that contains a summary of key points of this section**
Chapter 5: Conclusions and Future Recommendations

Chapter 4: Data and Results/Research Findings

instruments will be used, how the investigation will take place. A research design will typically include how data is to be collected, what instruments will be employed, how the instruments will be used and the intended means for analyzing data collected.

Chapter 3: Methodology. This section is commonly referred to as the Research Design or Methodology. This section provides a detailed outline of how an investigation will take place. A research design will typically include how data is to be collected, what instruments will be employed, how the instruments will be used and the intended means for analyzing data collected.

Chapter 4: Data and Results/Research Findings. (General conclusions, explanation of findings, recommendations for further study).

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Future Recommendations. (Summary, conclusion, discussions, suggestions for future research).

Chapter 1: Introduction. The introduction chapter of the thesis/dissertation is the first chapter and it sets the stage for what will be presented in the pages that follow it. The introduction chapter of a dissertation should include:

- A statement of the problem,
- A brief overview of the study,
- A discussion about the significance of your study, and
- A description of the various dissertation chapters.

Most introductions include the statement of the problem, objectives, hypotheses, and assumptions/limitations of the study.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature. The important thing is to understand that your literature review should not simply be a summarized description of the works that others have published. It should take the form of a critical discussion, showing insight and an awareness of differing arguments, theories and approaches, linked at all times to your own purpose and rationale. The literature review is an assessment of a body of research that addresses a research question. The purpose of the literature review is to identify what is already known about an area of study. It may also identify questions a body of research does not answer or make a case for why further study of research questions is important.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement(s)</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Director Grad Programs</th>
<th>Edu. Chair</th>
<th>Edu. Dean</th>
<th>Dean Grad Studies</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Submission of Advisory Committee forms</td>
<td>Student, Advisor</td>
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<td>Sept. 04</td>
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<td>Sept. 07</td>
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<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
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<td>Oct. 03</td>
<td>Oct. 05</td>
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<td>Complete the Thesis or Capstone Defense for December 2018 graduation</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
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<td>Exit Interview for December Graduates</td>
<td>Student</td>
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<td>Submit the Thesis or Capstone Outcome Report for December 2018 graduation</td>
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<td>Nov. 20</td>
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<td>Submit the final copies of the Thesis or the Capstone for December 2018</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
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<td>Presentation of Non-thesis (Internship) Portfolio for December 2018 graduation</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Committee Chair to schedule presentation by Nov. 26</td>
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<td>Presentation to be completed by Dec. 03</td>
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### MEETING THE DEADLINES – ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Requirement(s)</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPRING 2019</strong></td>
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<td>Director Grad Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of Plans of Study for Fall 2018 enrollees</td>
<td>Student, Advisor</td>
<td>Dec. 06, 2018</td>
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<td>Submission of Advisory Committee Forms:</td>
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<td>Dec. 06, 2018</td>
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<td><strong>Thesis students</strong> - no later than the end of the 2nd semester;</td>
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<td>Submission of Graduation Applications &amp; Audits for May 2019</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
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<td>Submission of Candidacy forms along with supporting documentation</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Mar. 01</td>
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<td><strong>Masters’ students:</strong> no later than one semester prior to graduation</td>
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<td><strong>Ed.D. students:</strong> no later than two semester prior to graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schedule a Thesis or Capstone Defense for May 2019 graduation [MUST be</td>
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<td>scheduled 4 weeks before the actual date of defense]</td>
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<td>Complete the Thesis or Capstone Defense for May 2019 graduation</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>Exit Interview for May Graduates</td>
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<td>File Thesis or Capstone Outcome Reports for May 2019 graduation</td>
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<td>Submission of the final copies of the Thesis or the Capstone for May 2019</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>To be informed by Apr. 15</td>
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<td>graduation via ProQuest with Graduate Studies and Research for review/approval.</td>
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<td>Presentation of Non-thesis (Internship) Portfolio for May 2019 graduation</td>
<td>Student, Chair Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Committee chair to</td>
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<td>schedule presentation by Apr. 23</td>
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<td>Submission of Non-thesis (Internship) Outcomes Reports for May 2019</td>
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<td>November 1 (Thursday)</td>
<td>International Applicants: Deadline for Receipt of Complete Graduate Applications for Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Please review all requirements via sgs.desu.edu/admissions. The applicant is encouraged to contact his or her program(s) of interest via sgs.desu.edu/about/graduate-program-directory as some have earlier deadlines.</td>
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<td>November 15 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Domestic Applicants: Deadline for Receipt of Complete Graduate Applications for Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Please review all requirements via sgs.desu.edu/admissions. The applicant is encouraged to contact his or her program(s) of interest via sgs.desu.edu/about/graduate-program-directory as some have earlier deadlines.</td>
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<td>December 3 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Spring 2019 Billing Due Date</td>
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<td>January 3 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open for New Students Only</td>
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<td>January 3-4 (Thursday-Friday)</td>
<td>New Student Registration</td>
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<td>January 3-5 (Thursday-Saturday)</td>
<td>I Love DSW Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 5 (Saturday at noon)</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open for Returning Students</td>
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<td>January 7 (Monday)</td>
<td>Classes Begin at 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>January 7 (Monday)</td>
<td>Late Registration Begins</td>
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<td>January 10 (Thursday)</td>
<td>General Faculty Meeting</td>
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<td>January 16 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Late Registration Ends</td>
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<td>January 16 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Add Classes</td>
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<td>January 16 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Change Course(s) to Audit Status</td>
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<td>January 17 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Documentation for Non-Attendance Submission Begins</td>
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<td>January 17 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Effective Date for $10 Per Drop Processing Fee</td>
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<td>January 17 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Effective Date for Receiving a Grade of “W” for Dropped Courses</td>
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<td>January 18-February 8 (Friday-Friday)</td>
<td>Academic Early Alert</td>
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<td>January 18 (Friday)</td>
<td>Plans of Study Due for Fall 2018 Enrolees</td>
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<td>January 18 (Friday)</td>
<td>Deadline for Submission of Committee Forms to School of Graduate Studies and Research for Approval. Thesis students should establish committees no later than the end of the 2nd semester of full-time enrollment; EdD. students should meet this milestone by the end of the 3rd semester of full-time enrollment; Ph.D. students, by the 5th semester of full-time enrollment.</td>
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<td>January 21 (Monday)</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Observance (University Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25 (Friday)</td>
<td>Last Day for Graduate Students to Meet Financial Obligations</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25 (Friday)</td>
<td>Applications &amp; Audits for May 2019 Commencement due to Graduate Studies for review and approval for submission to the Registrar's Office by February 8</td>
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<td>February 7 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Founders Day</td>
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<td>February 11-15 (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Midterm Evaluations Administered</td>
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<td>February 14 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Remove Incompletes</td>
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<td>February 18 (Monday)</td>
<td>Mid-Term Grades Due in Chairs' Offices</td>
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<td>February 25-March 29 (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Spring Faculty Evaluations</td>
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<td>February 25-March 23 (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Academic Advisement Period</td>
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<td>March 11-15 (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Spring Break (MEAC)</td>
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<td>March 13 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Financial Aid 60% Completion Date</td>
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<td>March 12-13 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Deadline for Submission of Candidacy Forms along with supporting documentation to the School of Graduate Studies and Research for approval. Students must be in academic good standing in order to meet this milestone. Students must complete the requisite number of course requirements (as noted in the Plan of Study) with minimum GPA of 3.0 (some programs may have more stringent requirements) along with identified activities designated to meet the culminating activity. Graduate students must meet candidacy requirements (as determined in your Program of Study) no later than one semester prior to graduation. Doctoral students must meet candidacy requirements no later than two semesters prior to graduation (or sooner if noted in your Program of Study).</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15 (Friday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Schedule a Thesis or Dissertation Defense with School of Graduate Studies and Research for May 2019 Graduation</td>
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<td>March 27 (Wednesday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop/Withdraw from the University</td>
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<td>April 1 (Monday)</td>
<td>Priority Pre-Registration</td>
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<td>April 2-12 (Tuesday-Friday)</td>
<td>Pre-Registration for Summer, Fall, Winter</td>
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<td>April 5 (Friday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Complete the Thesis or Dissertation Defense for May 2019 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6 (Saturday)</td>
<td>Spring Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Exit Interview for May 2019 Graduates Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12 (Friday)</td>
<td>Third Annual Delaware State University Research Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12 (Friday)</td>
<td>Last Day for May 2019 Graduates to File Thesis or Dissertation Outcome Reports to the School of Graduate Studies and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Submit Final Copies of the Thesis or the Dissertation via ProQuest with the School of Graduate Studies and Research for review/approval. Please review the Thesis/Dissertation Handbook: sgs.desu.edu/admissions/current-students. Questions regarding formal formatting of theses/dissertations may be forwarded to <a href="mailto:gradstudies@desu.edu">gradstudies@desu.edu</a> for review. Outcomes reports must have been submitted by the noted deadline for review and approval of all submissions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Last Day to Submit the Thesis/Dissertation Approval Page to the School of Graduate Studies and Research</td>
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<td>April 19-22 (Friday-Monday)</td>
<td>Easter Recess (University Closed)</td>
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<td>April 25 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<td>April 26 (Friday)</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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<td>April 29-May 3 (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
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<td>May 2 (Thursday)</td>
<td>Summer 2019 Billing Due Date</td>
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<td>May 3 (Friday)</td>
<td>Residence Halls Close at 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 6 (Monday)</td>
<td>Non-thesis Outcomes Reports Due to the School of Graduate Studies for May 2019 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6 (Monday)</td>
<td>Final Grades Due</td>
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<td>May 7 (Tuesday)</td>
<td>Assessment Summit</td>
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<td>May 9 (Thursday)</td>
<td>General Faculty Meeting</td>
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<td>May 11 (Saturday)</td>
<td>May Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 31 (Friday)</td>
<td>Financial Aid SAP Appeals Due for Fall 2019</td>
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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON & THE MEMBERS

CHAIRPERSON:

The role of the Advisory Committee Chairperson is to be the doctoral candidate’s mentor and advisor throughout the Capstone completion process. The Chairperson should maintain a close working relationship with the doctoral candidate and have professional expertise and interest related to the doctoral candidate’s Capstone topic.

Specific responsibilities of the Advisory Committee Chairperson include:

- To provide timely and thorough guidance to a student on the various elements necessary for the planning and execution of the final Capstone.
- To recommend appropriate members to serve on the committee and to approve the timeline when the student may circulate the manuscript to members of the committee.
- To advise on the research proposal and final defense protocols, to ensure that the students and their manuscripts are adequately prepared for the proposal and the defense, to facilitate the defense, to take notes for the student at the defense, and to discuss what revisions may be needed after the defense has been concluded.
- To advise/remind students on the deadlines as well as post-proposal or final defense time needed to get a manuscript ready for review by the Director, Graduate Programs, Department Chair and the College Dean prior to the manuscript being sent to Graduate Studies & Research.
- To be accessible to students for dialogue and formal meetings as needed.
- To read the drafts and ensure that the manuscripts are free from grammatical errors and to respond to student drafts in a timely basis. A reasonable guideline is no more than 10 working days turnaround time upon receipt of a draft or a response to a student within that 10 working day window if more time is needed.
- To be intimately familiar with the materials found in the Graduate Studies and Research’s Thesis and Dissertation Handbook, the Education Graduate Student Handbook, and the ‘Blue Book’ - the core documents that describe what is expected in a Capstone’s manuscript. This would include all post-proposal and post-final defense steps that are required of students.
- To advise the candidate on the execution of the research, data collection and its analysis; and to assure that the research, data collection, data analysis and writing of the Capstone document represents the doctoral candidate’s own work. The doctoral candidate will not be allowed to engage or seek outside expert services for data analysis or for proofreading/editing except in the case of a candidate having language barriers.
- To assure that the research proposal and final Capstone document that are submitted to the Office of the Director, Education Graduate Programs, are procedurally error free and conform to the policies and guidelines of the University and the Department of Education.
- To chair the meetings of the Advisory Committee, and to mediate and facilitate the resolution of any conflicts in advice or opinions that may arise within the doctoral candidate’s Advisory Committee.
- To coordinate with the Office of Education Graduate Programs for the scheduling of Proposal presentation and the Final Capstone Defense.
- To complete and submit the Defense Outcome Form in the Office of Education Graduate Programs.
- To respect the power differential that exists between student and chair and not to abuse the trust placed in him or her as a member of the Graduate Faculty for the appropriate conduct of a Capstone project.

Note: An Advisory Committee Chairperson who feels that he or she can no longer provide collaborative guidance to the student, for whatever reason, should inform the Department Chair and the Director of Education Graduate Programs in writing of his or her inability to act as Advisory Committee Chairperson.
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The role of Advisory Committee members is to provide the doctoral candidate with technical support and advice in the development of the research Proposal and the final Capstone document. While not as intensive a working relationship as that of Committee Chairperson, the committee members are expected to provide timely feedback when the doctoral candidate requests comments on drafts of their Research Proposals or chapters of their final Capstone document.

Specific responsibilities include:

- To work in collaboration with the Advisory Committee Chair to provide a timely and thorough guidance to a student on the development manuscript drafts.

- To respond to student drafts in a timely basis and provide feedback. A reasonable guideline is no more than 10 working days turnaround time upon receipt of a draft, or a response to a student if more time is needed within that 10 working day window. It is also important to keep the Chair informed of feedback being provided to students outside of the formal defense settings.

- To participate in the research Proposal presentation and approval processes.

- To participate in the Final Capstone Defense meeting and approval deliberations.

- To respect the power differential that exists between student and a committee member and not to abuse the trust placed in them as a member of the Graduate Faculty for the appropriate conduct of a Capstone research.

Note: Any Advisory Committee member who feels that he or she can no longer provide collaborative guidance to the student, for whatever reason, should inform the Department Chair and the Director of Education Graduate Programs in writing of his or her inability to act as an Advisory Committee member.
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Successful completion of the Capstone process ultimately resides with the doctoral student. It is incumbent upon the doctoral student to make judicious use of the University’s resources to meet the requirements for degree completion. The doctoral student must adhere to the Delaware State University dissertation policies and guidelines for completion of all required elements of the Capstone process.

In general, doctoral students have the responsibility:

- To inform themselves of the requirements of their programs and meet these requirements.
- To uphold the ethical responsibilities of their profession and discipline. This includes honesty in academic coursework and scholarship, and the upholding of ethical norms in the conduct and reporting of research methods and results.
- To treat all members of the University community in a respectful and professional manner.
- To contribute to the intellectual life of the University and to the advancement of education and scholarship.
- To understand and fulfill their role in developing and maintaining a professional relationship with their faculty advisor and chairperson of their Advisory Committees. This includes the responsibility for communicating regularly with them, maintaining a mutually agreed upon schedule of meetings, and informing them of such things as: the current status of their degree work; any expected deviations from the agreed upon program of studies; and any unanticipated absences.
- To fulfill their research commitments and duties in a responsible manner.
- To abide by the established rules and policies of their program, Department and the University.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Take personal initiative to move the research forward and to discuss with the Chair any problems that may arise.
- Be intimately familiar with the information found in the Thesis and Dissertation Handbook as well as the Education Graduate Student Handbook, the core documents that describe what is expected in a final document. This would include all post-proposal and post-final defense steps that are required of students.
- **Be aware of and accountable to meet the deadlines for submissions of various forms and the manuscript.**
- Conform to content and format requirements as defined in the Thesis and Dissertation Handbook.
- Coordinate the review and obtain approval of the research Prospectus, research Proposal and final Capstone document with the Advisory Committee Chairperson and the members.
- Submit the necessary forms such as the Committee Appointment Form; Application for Candidacy Form; Application for Graduation Form; and Schedule of Defense Date Form.
- Schedule an appointment with the Director, Education Graduate Programs, to complete the Graduation Audit Form.
- Provide the Advisory Committee Chairperson and the members with drafts of all required written products to read with ample time (up to two weeks) prior to meeting with them to obtain comments. It is incumbent upon the doctoral candidate to stay in close contact with the Committee members and to follow their suggestions. The Advisory Committee Chairperson will typically wish to read multiple drafts of each chapter of the Capstone document during the course of the student’s development. Other committee members may ask to read drafts of the document but are only required to read the research proposal and final written document prior to each defense. The research Proposal and the final document should be provided to all required reviewers at least three weeks prior to the scheduled oral presentation/defense.
- Assure that the research, data collection, data analysis and writing of the final document represents the doctoral candidate’s own work. Doctoral candidates will not be allowed to engage or seek outside expert services for data collection, its analysis or for proofreading/editing except in the case of a candidate having language barriers. The doctoral candidate will be held accountable for fully understanding all aspects of the data analysis and interpretation of statistics.
- **Maintain continuous enrollment in the University while completing the capstone.** If a doctoral candidate does not complete the research process and oral defense within the prescribed time frame, the doctoral candidate must enroll in EDUC- 829 every semester until the final document is approved and the oral defense is successfully completed.
- Assure that a minimum of three error-free copies of the final document (1 for the department, 1 for the library and 1 for Graduate Studies and Research) are delivered to the William C. Jason Library for processing, binding and distribution. Students may choose to have as many additional personal as copies they want. The doctoral candidate must pay all processing and binding fees upon delivery of the copies for processing. Doctoral candidates will not be eligible for award of the degree until these fees are paid.

**Note:** Students who feel that they can no longer sustain a collaborative working relationship with either a committee member or their Committee Chair should inform the reasons for it to the Director, Education Graduate Programs, in writing. The change, if any, will be allowed only after the approval of the Director, Education Graduate Programs, and the Department Chair.
LIST OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. Joseph Falodun (jfalodun@desu.edu)
Dr. Chandra Aleong (caleonq@desu.edu)
Dr. Elaine S. Marker (emarker@desu.edu)
Dr. N. K. Rathee (nrathee@desu.edu)
Dr. Richard Phillips (rphillips@desu.edu)
Dr. Keun K. Kim (keunkim@desu.edu)
Dr. Yvette Pierre (ypierre@desu.edu)
Dr. SaeYeol Yoon (syoon@desu.edu)
Dr. Chetanath Gautam (cgautam@desu.edu)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Research Interests/Areas of Research</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Joseph Falodun</td>
<td>Curriculum Development; Literacy Development; Language Acquisition; and Cultural Diversity</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jfalodun@desu.edu">jfalodun@desu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>302-857-6578</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Janet Hill</td>
<td>Qualitative Research; Mindset Theory; Constructivist Theory; Social Justice; Education; the Arts</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jhill@desu.edu">jhill@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-7393</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Elaine Marker</td>
<td>Reading/Literacy: Writing Development, Reading Difficulties, Comprehension, Literacy Assessment, Teacher/Literacy Specialist Preparation; Instructional Technology; Inquiry Practices, Literacy Across The Curriculum; Social Constructivist Learning; Goal Setting; Common Core: Implications for Diverse and Underserved Population</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emarker@desu.edu">emarker@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-7176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. N. K. Rathee</td>
<td>Educational Leadership; Innovations in Curriculum; Educational Psychology; Proprioception &amp; Perception; Lifespan &amp; Motor Development; Adapted Physical Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nrathee@desu.edu">nrathee@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-7170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Richard Phillips</td>
<td>Educational Technology and Leadership; Postsecondary Education Programs; Transition Programs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rphillips@desu.edu">rphillips@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-7569</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Faith Newton</td>
<td>Brain Based Research; Middle Level Education; Special Education - Other Health Impaired</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fnewton@desu.edu">fnewton@desu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Keun Kin</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education &amp; Father Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:keunkim@desu.edu">keunkim@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-6744</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. SaeYeol Yoon</td>
<td>Scientific Literary; Argumentation in Learning and Teaching Science; Informal Science Learning &amp; STEM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:syoon@desu.edu">syoon@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-6726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Yvette Pierre</td>
<td>Multicultural Education/Educational Equity; Student Achievement/Retention; Teacher Education/Pedagogical Practices; Urban Education Reform</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ypierre@desu.edu">ypierre@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-7570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Donald Kern</td>
<td>Mathematics Scaffolding in Physics; ADHD and EF Skills Deficits as Related to Math Acquisition &amp; Science Learning; Mathematics Methods in Science Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dkern@desu.edu">dkern@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Dr. Chetanath Gautam</td>
<td>Educational Leadership &amp; Administration; Curriculum Leadership; Qualitative Research; Program Evaluation and Mixed Method Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cgautam@desu.edu">cgautam@desu.edu</a></td>
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<td>302-857-6959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. James Chrisman</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jchrisman@desu.edu">jchrisman@desu.edu</a></td>
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INTRODUCTION

The detailed instructions in this handbook are intended to lend a uniform appearance to theses and dissertation projects at Delaware State University and must be followed by all disciplines. While it is recognized that documents from divergent areas of study will exhibit differences, certain requirements of format are necessary.

Students should begin preparing to write the Thesis/Dissertation early in their graduate program. It is the responsibility of the student to acquire the necessary skills to produce the Thesis/Dissertation documents that fall into compliance with the physical format requirements of Graduate Studies and Research. It is critical that the Thesis/Dissertation be prepared correctly in order to convert easily to a Portable Document Format (PDF).

Without exception, no Thesis or Dissertation is accepted by Graduate Studies and Research until it is in compliance with formatting requirements and the printing and publication has been arranged through ProQuest.

THESIS/DISSERTATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Each student who elects or is required to complete a Thesis or Dissertation in partial fulfillment of his or her graduate degree must assemble and receive approval of a committee one semester prior to beginning work on the proposed project. More stringent program requirements should be adhered to, but minimally, the research project undertaken in partial fulfillment of the degree should begin no later than the end of two (2) semesters of full-time enrollment for master’s students and four (4) semesters of full-time enrollment for doctoral students. The responsibility of this committee is to guide and support the research of the student to completion. As such, the selection of committee members is one of the most important decisions a student will make during his or her graduate matriculation and therefore should only be made after much deliberation with the primary advisor. Some programs may formalize this process by requiring students to perform laboratory rotations with Departmental faculty prior to selection of a project, development and defense of a research prospectus for a grade, or approval of a research proposal as a candidacy requirement. Whatever the process, once the research project and primary research advisor (henceforth referred to as the Committee Chairperson) are determined, committee members should be selected based upon the academic expertise of the faculty member and the project focus. Additionally, committee members should also be willing to participate fully in the process. Once
selected, the committee is subject to the review and approval of the Department Chairperson or designee. This information is captured on the Delaware State University Appointment of an Advisory Committee for the Master’s/Doctoral Degree form and should be submitted to Graduate Studies and Research as a part of the student’s file adhering to the timelines as described. This and all graduate matriculation documents may be found at https://sgaes.desu.edu.

**Minimum Committee Requirements:**
It is not the intention of Graduate Studies and Research to supersede Departmental or College committee requirements, but rather provide guidelines for minimum committee composition. In cases where these requirements are more stringent, Graduate Studies and Research will defer, but at a minimum all committees will meet the following standards. A Thesis Committee (MA or MS) shall consist of four (4) members at the rank of Assistant Professor or above, one of whom is external to the Department in which the work was completed. A Dissertation (Ed.D. or Ph.D.) Committee shall consist of five (5) members at the rank of Assistant Professor or above, one of whom shall be external to the University. A doctoral student completing a case/project study may have (4) members at the rank of Assistant Professor or above, one of whom shall be external to the University.

**Thesis/Dissertation Defense**
The oral defense, also known as the oral examination, shall be scheduled in adherence with the University’s calendar (approximately 8 weeks before the end of the semester) and as noted at Graduate Studies and Research’s website: https://sgaes.desu.edu. The student is required to submit the final document to the committee for review at least one week (7 days) prior to the scheduled defense. The Chair of the committee, however, should schedule periodic committee meetings to gauge the student’s progress. It is also strongly recommended that the committee require periodic submissions of the document as it is developed and provide timely feedback, thus allowing the student adequate time to defend his or her research, make corrections following the defense, receive feedback and approval from committee members and the Dean of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies, as well as submission of the final document for printing and publication, all of which are graduation requirements.

**Registration for Thesis/Dissertation Research Credit**
While the style manual selected for the Thesis or Dissertation is designated by the Department or College in which the program resides, page layouts and margin requirements as described by Graduate Studies and Research must be adhered to. Students must register for Thesis/Dissertation research credit while conducting the required research, and when ready to devote focused time to the writing and completion of their research document. In cases where programs have segmented the development of the Thesis or Dissertation across several courses, the student should follow this protocol. It is strongly recommended that the Committee Chair develop a timeline in consultation with the student and committee members in order to assist the student in meeting the required milestones for a successful outcome. Students must remain registered for Thesis/Dissertation sustaining credit while “active” work on their research documents continues or until the Thesis/Dissertation is approved by the Advisory Committee and Graduate Studies and Research. Any student utilizing University resources while working on their Thesis/Dissertation including faculty assistance or University facilities are required to enroll for the Thesis/Dissertation course. A lapse of two or more semesters of continuous enrollment (not including summer) will require reapplication to the School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies.

**Thesis/Dissertation Grades**
A grade of Q is submitted for the student while a Thesis or Dissertation research is in progress and proceeding satisfactorily. If the Thesis or Dissertation is not proceeding satisfactorily, a U grade is
submitted. If a U grade is submitted, the committee should monitor the student’s progress very closely. If a second U grade is received, the committee should meet with the student regarding progress and submit a memorandum to the Graduate School summarizing the outcomes of the meeting:

1. Date and time the committee convened?
2. Can the project be revised or changed in scope?
3. Was there a recommendation to change committee members?
4. Was there a recommendation to change programs (MS to MA, Ph.D. to MS, thesis to non-thesis)?
5. Was the student dismissed from the program due to lack of progress?
6. Was the decision of the committee unanimous?

**ProQuest Process and Specifications**

Upon completion of the oral defense, the Committee Chair should forward the defense outcomes to Graduate Studies and Research by the posted deadline. Additionally, the outcomes should precede submission of the final Thesis/Dissertation for approval. The final Thesis/Dissertation should be submitted to Graduate Studies and Research following approval of the Advisory Committee by the posted deadline. This document should include all changes and/or updates resulting from the oral examination along with the appropriate approvals on the Thesis/Dissertation Approval Page. These corrections should be given to the student in writing preferably at the defense but no later than 5 business days following the defense. The finished document must be submitted online to ProQuest at [www.Etdadmin.com/desu](http://www.Etdadmin.com/desu). Prior to submission, all students will be required to view the ProQuest Submission Tutorial. The distribution of bound copies will be as follows at the expense of the student:

- One bound original (8.5” x 11.0”) to the University Library;
- Personal copy(ies) at the student’s discretion

The Committee Chair will submit the appropriate letter grade (A, B, C, D, F) following approval of the final document by the Dean, School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies, and submission to ProQuest. This grade will replace (the maximum allowed) previously received Thesis/Dissertation Q grades for the degree.

Copies of the Thesis/Dissertation must be reviewed according to the regulations outlined by Graduate Studies and Research. The Thesis/Dissertation binding process is required and will be provided by ProQuest after the student has completed the following steps:

1. All formatting corrections have been made and approved by the ProQuest Administrator for Graduate Studies and Research.
2. All forms and documents including the Defense Outcomes form, the Revisions for Thesis/Dissertation and Signature Approval pages have been submitted and signed by the Dean, School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies.
3. The required number of bound copies of the Thesis/Dissertation have been paid online via ProQuest.

**USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL**

The law permits the limited use of extracts and quotations for purposes of illustration and criticism. This provision covers most quotations in Theses and Dissertations. In most instances, it is not necessary for candidates preparing Theses/Dissertations to obtain permission to quote from professional journals in their fields or from copyrighted books.
Copyrighted items, such as photographic copies of pictures and charts, tests, forms and questionnaires, no matter how short, should never be reproduced without permission.

Graduate students are advised to receive permission, from the author or publisher, to quote any extensive information from copyrighted materials. In most cases, the author or publisher is willing to grant permission with the condition that acknowledgments are included in the document. If a student chooses to copyright his or her Thesis/Dissertation, copies of the written letters must accompany the copyright registration.

Students should consult with their Thesis/Dissertation Committee Chair and members concerning the desirability and the usefulness of copyrighting the document.

REPRODUCTION

The Thesis/Dissertation may be duplicated or reproduced by photocopying, printing additional copies, or a comparable process. In all cases, the printing must be of high quality – completely free of smudges, gray cast, or any extraneous marks. It is recommended that a laser printer be used.

STYLE

Style, footnotes, citations, and bibliographical form of the Thesis/Dissertation should conform to the conventions prescribed by a standard style manual appropriate to the student’s major field. In some cases, the style employed in major research publications may be appropriate for use in a Thesis/Dissertation. Footnotes in the Thesis/Dissertation should be placed in the document according to the respective style manual.

Note: The student must select the latest edition of the style manual approved by his or her department, and must consistently conform to the instructions of that manual. However, in cases of conflict and when no specific guideline has been selected, this Thesis/Dissertation Handbook takes precedence. A word of caution -- never use another Thesis/Dissertation as a model. Examples taken from another Thesis/Dissertation may be out of context, out of date or incorrect. The existence of a particular style or usage in a previously approved Thesis/Dissertation does not establish a precedent for its continuation.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Typeface
A Times New Roman, 12 point black font is the preferred type. Another font may be substituted if specified in the guidelines of the respective program. Word processing quality must be consistent throughout the document; nonstandard fronts are unacceptable. Features such as boldface, underline and italics that improve the readability are acceptable; however, a quality printer must be used in black print, but may also include color print where appropriate. The manuscript must be neat and easily readable, with the same form used throughout. A student in doubt regarding acceptable fonts or prints should consult with the Graduate Student Support Specialist. The manuscript should be proofread, and corrected errors should not be detectable.

The following common errors must be avoided:
- Sentences ending a paragraph should not end as a partial line at the top of the next page.
• All chapters, sections, subheads and table headings of more than one line should be single-spaced.
• All large material requiring the use of a landscape page orientation should face to the right.
• A period or a comma is placed inside quotation marks; colons and semicolons are placed outside quotation marks.
• If two words are omitted from a quotation, three spaced periods (called an ellipsis) are inserted at the beginning, middle, or end of the sentence to reflect the omission.
• Table titles should not be restated on continuous pages.
• All references cited in the text must be listed in the References section.

Margins
The entire document should have uniform margins of 1 inch around all four sides of the paper.

Spacing
The body of the Thesis or Dissertation must be double-spaced using only one side of the sheet. Long quotations, typed as block quotes, should be single-spaced with triple space before and after. Tables and figures, captions as well as descriptions, footnotes, references, and bibliographic information may use single spacing.

The chapter title on the first page of each chapter also has specific spacing requirements. There shall be a double space between the chapter, the section title, and the text.

Footnotes, if any, shall be numbered consecutively throughout each chapter, indented for the first line, single spaced and separated from the text by a solid line of 18 spaces. A double space shall be left between footnotes.

Pagination
The pages in the Preliminary material must be numbered consecutively with lower-case Roman numerals, centered at the bottom 1 inch margin. The title page has no page number typed on it, but it is understood to be page “i.” If a copyright page is included, it is not counted in the numbering.

Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3) should be used for the remainder of the paper, including the reference materials. These numbers shall begin with page one of the text, which bears the number centered at the bottom of the page, with succeeding page numbers at the 1 ½” top right margin.

All pages are numbered in sequence, including the first pages of chapter, full-page tables or figures, and appendices. All Arabic numbers should be placed consistently throughout the document.

Paragraphs
Each paragraph should be indented. A new paragraph should not begin at the bottom of the page unless there is adequate space for at least two lines.

Illustrative Material – paper submission
For best optic quality, computer generated or digital photos should be laser printed directly onto white 25%-100% cotton paper. High color photocopies may also be used.
ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT

In most cases, a Thesis/Dissertation consists of four major parts – abstract, preliminary materials, text, and the references/bibliography. Some documents may also include appendices. The following is a list of all the major and minor parts, in their usual order of placement.

Sequence of Parts of the Thesis or Dissertation
The parts of the Thesis/Dissertation or project must be arranged in the following sequence:

- Title Page
- Copyright Page (if used)
- Dedication Page (optional)
- Acknowledgement Page (optional)
- Preface (if discipline requires it)
- Abstract (Required)
- Table of Contents (Required)
- List of Tables (recommended if tables are present)
- List of Figures or Illustrations
- List of Abbreviations (if used)
- Text (main body of Thesis/Dissertation beginning with introduction as first chapter)
- References
- Appendices
- Glossary (if used)
- Index (optional)
- Back Flyleaf (blank page)

**Please draw your attention to the examples provided at the back of this guide book**

The parts to be included in any Thesis or Dissertation should be determined by mutual agreement between the student and his or her committee. Each part of the document is described below in detail.

Title Page
The title page should follow exactly the spacing and use of capitalization shown in the sample at the end of the guide. The top margin is 1 inch and the information is centered. The title can be typed in all capitals or the first letter of each word can be capitalized (with the exception of articles). If the title is more than one line in length, it is arranged in an inverted pyramid. The date on the title page should be the month and year the degree is to be granted. The name of the degree sought, and the major department or field of study, is included here. (See sample at the end of the guide) The title page has no preliminary page number typed on it, but it is counted as preliminary page “i.” Following the date, type all committee members whose names will appear on the top portion of the signed approval page (left justified). Begin the name with the title of the person as Dr. James Doe, followed by role on your committee (Committee Chairperson, Committee Co-Chairperson (if applicable), Committee Member and External Committee Member), Department and University. The approval page must also be submitted to Graduate Studies and Research with wet signatures for the final approval of the Dean, Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies.
Copyright Page (if used)
If students elect to have the Thesis/Dissertation copyrighted, please review the ProQuest website at http://www.Etdadmin.com/desu for details with this process. For more information about copyright, visit the U.S. Copyright Office via the Library of Congress website at www.copyright.gov. Keep in mind that if you choose to copyright, you must include a copyright page in your document. The copyright page appears on the verso of the title page and legally protects the property of the author’s Thesis or Dissertation. There is an additional charge for copyrighting. If a copyright page is used, it is not counted in the numbering.

Dedication (Optional)
A dedication gives special tribute to a specific person(s). Most dedications are short, beginning with the word, “To…” The dedication is typed alone on the page, usually centered. This page should have a 1 inch top margin, or the dedication may be typed in the middle of the page (top to bottom). The text of the dedication is double-spaced. The preliminary page number should be centered at the 1 inch bottom margin.

Acknowledgments (Optional)
When included, acknowledgments should be brief, simple and free of sentimentality or trivia. It is customary to recognize the assistance of the Advisor and/or Committee Chair, all other members of the committee, and only those organizations and/or persons who actually added to the research. If financial support was provided to make the study possible, credit for such assistance should be given.

The heading ACKNOWLEDGMENTS is typed in the center at the 1 inch top margin. The text is double spaced with the appropriate preliminary page number centered at the bottom margin.

Preface (Optional)
A preface is a statement that either explains the author’s reasons for pursuing this subject matter or provides a personal comment about the subject that would not otherwise be included in the document. The heading PREFACE is centered at the 1 inch top margin. The text is double-spaced with the appropriate preliminary page number(s) centered 1” at the bottom margin.

Abstract
An abstract must be included with each Thesis and Dissertation submitted to Graduate Studies and Research. The abstract should be a brief summary of the paper, stating only the problem, procedures used, and the most significant result and conclusions. Explanations and opinions are omitted. The abstract must be approved by the student’s Committee Chair.

The abstract margins are consistent with the text of the paper: 1 inch top; 1 inch left; and, 1 inch right and bottom.

Please note that the name and title used on the abstract should be the same as used on the title page. The faculty Advisor or Committee Chairperson should follow the title and student name. (See sample at the end of the guide)

The text of the abstract is typed double-spaced in paragraph form with the first paragraph of the text beginning one triple-space beneath the advisor/committee chairperson. The first word of each paragraph should be indented, consistent with the rest of the paper.

Table of Contents
The Table of Contents is placed immediately after the acknowledgments or preface and contains a listing of all the items that follow. The Table of Contents lists only the items that follow it. It does not include the pages that precede it.
The heading TABLE OF CONTENTS is centered at the 1 inch top margin. One double-space down from the heading, the words “List of Tables” is typed flush with the left margin. Page numbers for each chapter title/heading and each subtitle/subheading are listed on the Table of Contents and should be left flush, beneath the word “List.”

The contents begin at the left margin, one double-space below the title. Preliminary items, such as LIST OF TABLES, are typed flush with the left margin, followed by a series of dots, known as dot leaders, and the page number typed flush with the right margin. Please note that the Title, Copyright, Dedication, Acknowledgement, and Abstract pages are not listed on the Table of Contents.

Following the preliminary items, the word CHAPTER stands alone on a line, centered. Chapter headings are numbered with Roman numerals, aligned by their decimals. The chapter titles are typed in capital letters and are worded exactly as they appear in the text.

When a title or subheading must exceed one line, the subsequent line(s) should be single-spaced and indented two spaces. Double-spacing is used between each chapter title. If there are subheadings included, these should be typed single-spaced with a double-space separating them from chapter titles above and below. All subheadings must include subheading numbers which must also be included in the text of all chapters preceding the subheading (See sample at the end of the guide).

List of Tables (Recommended if tables are present)
The list of tables follows the Table of Contents and begins on a separate page. The heading LIST OF TABLES is centered at the 1 inch top margin. The remainder of the page is set up basically the same as the Table of Contents, double-spaced, with the list of table numbers and titles. Each table title should be followed by dot leaders and the page numbers. All table titles must be listed in order using the exact title (as it appears on the actual table) and the appropriate page number. Tables should be numbered in the order they appear in the paper, using the numbering system provided in the style guide selected. Titles of more than one line are single-spaced with second and succeeding lines indented two spaces. Double-spacing is used between table titles. Only titles, not explanatory notes, should be included on the list of tables.

Tables and Figures/Illustrations
Statistical information is usually set up in tabular form. Tables may be placed on a page with text or on separate pages. Tables are numbered consecutively and table captions should be in accordance with the selected style guide. The table is then typed beginning one double space below the last line of the caption, either single or double-spaced.

Illustrative material such as graphs, diagrams, photographs, drawings and maps are referred to as figures. Some of these items may be best included as multimedia files. If the illustration is included in the text, it should be inserted as closely as possible to its first reference. Figures are numbered sequentially throughout the text in Arabic numbers. The placement of figure titles, either above or below the figure, must be consistent throughout the paper.

Nothing should be typed on a facing left-hand page. If the table or figure is landscape format, the top should be placed at the 1 inch left-hand margin. Please note that the page numbers on the landscape pages must appear in the same position and direction as the page numbers on portrait pages. All tables and figures must conform to the specified margin requirements.
The division of the main text of the paper should be appropriate to the character of the work and in accordance with the practices in the student’s field of study. Normally, the text includes an introductory chapter, a documentation of previous work in the field, the specific problem to be investigated, a complete explanation of the methodology used, a discussion of the results and their significance, and a summary. Each major division, usually called a chapter, should begin on a new page. The first page of each chapter has a very specific format.

- One inch top margin
- The heading is centered, typed in all capital letters, and uses standard Arabic designations or Roman Numerals (ex: CHAPTER 1 or CHAPTER II).
- Double-space (the equivalent of three single-spaces)
- The chapter title is centered and typed in all capitals
- Triple-space (the equivalent of three single-spaces)
- First subheading or begin text

Chapter 1: Introduction
The introduction chapter of the Thesis/Dissertation is the first chapter and it sets the stage for what will be presented in the pages that follow it. The introduction chapter of your dissertation should include:
1) A statement of the problem,
2) A brief overview of the study,
3) A discussion about the significance of your study and
4) A description of the various dissertation chapters.
Most introductions include the statement of the problem, objectives, hypotheses, and assumptions/limitations of the study.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature
The important thing is to understand that your literature review should not simply be a summarized description of the works that others have published. It should take the form of a critical discussion, showing insight and an awareness of differing arguments, theories and approaches, linked at all times to your own purpose and rationale. The literature review is an assessment of a body of research that addresses a research question. The purpose of the literature review is to identify what is already known about an area of study. It may also identify questions a body of research does not answer or make a case for why further study of research questions is important.

Chapter 3: Outline of Procedures
This section is commonly referred to as the “Research Design or Methodology.” This section provides a detailed outline of how an investigation will take place. A research design will typically include how data is to be collected, what instruments will be employed, how the instruments will be used and the intended means for analyzing data collected.

Chapter 4: Data and Results/Research Findings
(General conclusions, explanation of findings, recommendations for further study)

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Future Recommendations
(Summary, conclusion, discussions, suggestions for future research)
Quantitative Dissertation Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction
- Background of the Problem
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Theoretical Framework
- Research Hypotheses
- Importance of the Study
- Scope of the Study
- Definition of Terms
- Limitations and Delimitations
- Summary

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

Chapter 3: Research Methods
- Research Design
- Participants
- Instrumentation
- Research Procedures and Pilot Testing
- Data Analysis
- Assumptions of the Study
- Summary

Chapter 4: Research Findings

Chapter 5: Conclusions
- Summary
- Final Conclusions
- Discussion
- Suggestions for Future Research

Qualitative Dissertation Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction
- Background of the Problem
- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Importance of the Study
- Scope of the Study
- Definition of Terms
- Limitations and Delimitations

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature (in qualitative studies, often reviewed after rather than before data collection)

Chapter 3: Research Methods
- The Qualitative Paradigm
- Qualitative Methods
- The Researcher’s Role
- Data Sources
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Verification
• Ethical Considerations
• Plan for Narrative or Pilot Study Results

Chapter 4: Research Findings
Chapter 5: Conclusions
• Summary
• Final Conclusions
• Discussion
• Suggestions for Future Research

Post Chapter Submissions
References or Bibliography
Appendices
Glossary
Index

Subheadings
For complex theses, the use of multiple “levels” of subheadings may be necessary. The use and placement of subheadings should be consistent throughout the entire document. Each new “level” should be distinct from the others in placement and/or structure and numbered (in chapter 1 subheadings would include 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc.). Subheadings with numbers are listed in the Table of Contents and text of the Thesis or Dissertation under each chapter by which they are included.

Reference Materials (Required)
The Thesis and Dissertation should contain the appropriate references to original literature relevant to the research presented in the paper. For specific formatting details, please refer to the style guide recommended by the Thesis/Dissertation Committee.

All bibliographical references should clearly show the sources of the writer’s information. When primary sources are not available, reference to a source known only through a secondary reference must be noted so as to provide readers with the means to check original sources.

The bibliography must include all references cited. Useful references not cited in the text, but highly relevant to the investigation, may also be listed in the bibliography.

The first page of the reference materials should immediately follow the last page of the text, paginated continuously with the page number placed in the same position as throughout the text. The first page of the reference material should contain the word REFERENCES centered at the page. All items must meet specified margin requirements and follow the format of specified style guide (i.e., MLA, APA, etc.).

List of Abbreviations
When abbreviations are used in the Thesis/Dissertation, a list of abbreviations is included to detail nonstandard acronyms.

Glossary (if used)
The glossary contains terms with definitions of unfamiliar or uncommon words, acronyms, phrases, or abbreviations used throughout the text. The terms and definitions provided allow the reader to gain deeper insight and clarity while reading the Thesis or Dissertation.
Index (optional)
An index is an alphabetical list of words, phrases, or subjects to where useful material relating to that heading can be found in a document. The index can be found near the end of the Thesis or Dissertation.

Appendices (Optional, as needed)
The appendices may contain tables of data that would interfere with the easy reading of the text, development of mathematical treatments, very long quotations, schedules, forms, interviews, inventories, samples of test items, surveys, illustrative materials, and any other supplementary material considered worthy of recording or too detailed to be included in the text. If diverse materials are included, they should be grouped into categories and each category labeled as a separate appendix (ex: Appendix A. Tables; Appendix B. Consent Forms; etc.) Each appendix should have a lettered heading and descriptive title typed on the actual appendix and listed in the Table of Contents.

The appendices follow the reference materials and are paginated continuously, with the page number placed in the same position as throughout the text. All items must meet the specified margin requirements.

Proofreading and Editing
After final approval by the Committee Chair, and final typing, the text should be proofread carefully by the student or other interested persons for editorial accuracy. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure should be consistent with the rules of formal Standard English, and the citation method should be consistent with the appropriate style guide.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Margins
Each page of the document shall have the following margins:
Top: 1” for the first page of each chapter or division
Bottom: 1”
Left: 1”
Right: 1”
The first page of Preliminaries and Chapters are to begin one (1) inch from the top and numbers are centered one (1) inch from the bottom of the page. Page numbers for succeeding pages are placed at the bottom center within (inside) the one (1) inch margin. All page numbers must be inside the required margins. No numbers should fall outside the margins (i.e., the numbers will be placed one (1) inch from the bottom of each page requiring one (1) inch margins.)

Paragraphs
Each paragraph should be indented. A new paragraph should not begin at the bottom of the page unless there is adequate space for at least two lines.

Title Page
The title of the Thesis or Dissertation shall begin one (1) inch from the top of the page. The title page should bear the following information: (a) the title of the Thesis or project in full caps: (b) the name of the candidate; (c) the following statement; A Thesis (or Dissertation) Submitted to the Faculty of Delaware State University in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
in the Department of __________. At the bottom of the page the words: Dover, Delaware (followed by the month and year the degree will be conferred on the next line, i.e., May 2014).

Following the date, type all committee members whose names will appear on the top portion of the signed approval page (left justified). Begin the name with the title of the person as Dr. James Doe, followed by the role on your committee (Committee Chairperson, Committee Co-Chairperson (if applicable), Committee Member, and External Committee Member), Department, and University. The approval page must also be submitted to Graduate Studies and Research with wet signatures for the final approval of the Dean, School of Graduate, Adult and Extended Studies. (See sample at the end of the guide)

The title of the Thesis or Dissertation shall be typed in full capital letters; double spaced (if two lines or more); and use the reverse pyramid style. (See sample at the end of the guide)

**Preliminaries**
The Acknowledgment, Dedication, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Illustration, List of Figures, References (Bibliography), and Appendix shall be numbered at the bottom of the page and centered with Roman numerals. Double-space between page and title and text.

The Acknowledgments, Dedication, Abstract, Table of Contents, List of Tables, List of Illustrations, and List of Figures, shall begin one (1) inch from the top of the page and be numbered bottom center. The remaining parts of the manuscript should be numbered at the bottom center margin.

Small Roman numerals (ii, iii, iv, etc.) shall be used for the preliminaries. These numbers are placed bottom center, leaving the one (1) inch margin below the number. The numbering shall begin with “ii.” The title page counts as page i, but the number does not appear; Roman numeral ii will begin with the Dedication page, etc.

A page shall be used for a statement of the Table of Contents, giving the chapters in Roman numerals, the References (Bibliography), the Appendices, and Illustrations, if any, with the page number at which these divisions begin.

The word ABSTRACT (full caps) should be centered and printed one (1) inch from the top of the page. The abstract must contain, briefly: (a) the statement of the problem; (b) the procedure or methods used; (c) the results; (d) the conclusions.

**Body of Text**
The arrangement of the text shall follow Department guidelines or those of the manual chosen if Departmental guidelines have not been issued.

All chapter titles designated must be in Roman numerals or Arabic numerals, centered, and typed in full capital letters (ex: CHAPTER II or CHAPTER 2-select one format for all chapters). Each chapter should begin at the top of a new page with a top margin of 1 inch. The title of the section should be centered and typed in full capital letters. The first line of the text begins a double space below the section title.
Symbols
Most symbols such as Greek letters or mathematical signs are available on the computer. In special cases, symbols may be drawn with black ink.

References (Bibliography)
A title page for References (Bibliography) shall be printed in FULLCAPS, center page – with the number centered 1” from the bottom. The next page should also bear the title “References” with the page number placed top right at the 1” margin.

All Theses/Dissertations must include a list of works cited and/or references. References or the Bibliography shall be appended to the Thesis or Dissertation. It shall list all references, alphabetically by authors, consulted by the student.

Journal citations shall be consistent with the style acceptable to a scholarly journal in the student’s research field.

Appendices
A title page for the Appendices shall be printed in FULL CAPS; center page – with the page number entered 1” from bottom. If more than one appendix is included, they should be titled Appendix A, Appendix B, Appendix C, etc., beginning at the top margin.