

(modified from the Grad School website & Adult Ed Graduate Handbook)

Journal-Ready Articles Dissertation Format

In this format three chapters of the dissertation are individual journal-length manuscripts ready for submission to academic journals. This format may be particularly beneficial to those doctoral students whose career goals include positions in academia. The candidate, major professor, and dissertation committee must all agree that this structure is appropriate for the candidate.

What does the journal-ready dissertation proposal consist of?

The **dissertation proposal** includes:

- The current wording for prospectus on our website (see below) plus
- A one-page proposal for each of the three articles stating the focus of the article, target audience, and possible journals for submission.

What is the structure of the journal-ready dissertation? The following structure incorporates the Graduate School guidelines:

- An introductory chapter that presents the theoretical framework for the study and informs the reader of the structure of the dissertation, most likely a revised version of the prospectus;
- A second chapter, also revised from the prospectus, that includes a “literature review that defines the objectives of the research” [grad school requirement] and the research methodology;
- Three journal articles in ready-to-submit condition
 - The name of the journal and article status, e.g., to be submitted, submitted, etc. must be given as a footnote to the title on the first page of each of the article chapters; articles submitted to journals prior to the dissertation defense must have been approved for submission by all members of the student’s committee
- At least two of the articles must be authored solely by the student; on co-authored articles, the student must be first author
- Articles can be research findings, literature reviews, methodology discussions, theoretical discussions, practitioner-oriented and/or policy articles. Two articles must be data-based, that is, based on data generated and analyzed in the research study
- All articles must be prepared during the student’s doctoral program at The University of Georgia
- A brief concluding chapter that ties together the articles and moves candidates forward from the dissertation to thinking about their careers in academia, reflecting for example on what they learned during the research process, implications of the study for their teaching, and future research plans.

Additional Guidelines:

Journals: Submissions must be to peer-reviewed, refereed journals

Additional authors: Should additional authors be listed on one or more of the dissertation manuscripts, the candidate must provide a detailed summary of the work performed by these other authors. Further, a statement must be provided in which the additional authors agree (by their signatures) with the candidate's assessment of their contribution to the manuscripts. This information is to be provided in an Appendix immediately following each co-authored article.

LLE website currently states the following regarding prospectus:

The specific content and format of the dissertation prospectus/proposal may vary depending on the research methods employed. The prospectus may be drafts of 3 dissertation chapters (e.g., theoretical framework, literature review, methodology), or equivalent information in another format, such as a research grant proposal. Conventionally, a prospectus/proposal is about 20-35 pages long. Regardless of form, the following should be included:

- Theoretical framework
- Statement of the problem
- Research questions
- Significance of the problem
- A partial literature review (enough to document the need for the project and to establish a theoretical framework)
- Thorough discussion of procedures and methods to be employed in the investigation, including at least participant selection, data gathering procedures, data analysis, validity, and so forth
- Potential importance, implications, and limitations of the investigation
- Anticipated time-table for completing the dissertation project
- References