

King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals

DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**A Comprehensive Guide for MS/PhD
Theses/Dissertations and Graduation Process**

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a comprehensive guide for MS/PhD Theses/Dissertations and for the subsequent process of graduation. This guide is intended to enable the reader to fully understand and grasp the requirements and methodology of thesis/dissertation writing. It also describes the procedures of submitting the thesis/dissertation proposal, thesis/dissertation committee selection, public oral defense of thesis/dissertation and uploading the thesis/dissertation to online repository; in addition to the steps to be taken by a student after the defense. To save the time of students, their thesis/dissertation committee members and reviewers, common errors and mistakes, noted by the reviewers over the years, are also presented in this booklet.

I. Guidelines to be followed in selection of Thesis/Dissertation Committee

The Master's Thesis Committee must fulfill the following requirements;

1. It must comprise an odd number of members, chaired by the thesis advisor.
2. It must comprise of at least three members (including advisor and if any, co-advisor). The advisor and co-advisor (if any) should not constitute a majority in the Committee.
3. The Committee members should meet the conditions of the thesis supervision. All Assistant Professors or outside-the-KFUPM members in the committee should have a strong research background (at least 02 refereed journal publications).
4. At least one member of the Committee must be a **Professor** or an **Associate Professor**.
5. Decisions of the Committee should be based on a majority vote of at least two thirds of the total number of members.

In addition to the requirements 1 & 2 above, the Doctoral Dissertation Committee must satisfy the following;

1. The committee must comprise of at least five (05) members (including advisor and if any, co-advisor).
2. The Committee members must be of Professor or Associate Professor.
3. At least one member of the Committee must be of a Professorial rank.
4. One member of the Committee must be from outside the University.
5. Decisions of the Committee should be based on a majority vote of at least two thirds of the total number of members.

➤ **For further information, please visit**

(http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/unified.asp?pr_id=20&sh_id=20) or

Page-67 of Graduate Bulletin, which is available at

(http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/files/current/Grad_Bulletin_09-11.pdf).

GUIDE TO THE SUBMISSION OF THESIS/DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

II. Guidelines for Submitting the Thesis/Dissertation Proposal

A thesis/dissertation is a requirement for all Master of Science (M. Sc.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) students regardless of the area of specialization. It is considered as primary evidence of the student's capacity for research, independent thought and of his ability to write professionally in the language of instruction.

Below is a checklist for the thesis/dissertation proposal approval. One must fulfill all the requirements stated below prior to submission of his thesis/dissertation proposal.

1. The Admission Status of the student is "Regular": This means that a student must fulfill all the requirements for provisional admission such as submission of acceptable TOEFL/GRE scores, etc.
2. The Degree Plan is approved: Every graduate student is required to submit his degree plan within the first semester of his admission to the graduate program.
3. Half of the required coursework for the degree is completed: According to the regulations, a student must have completed 50% of the coursework at the time of submission of thesis/dissertation Proposal.
4. Seminar course is passed: All master-level students are required to pass the seminar course (XXX-599).
5. All doctoral-level students are required to pass the comprehensive exam as part of the seminar course (XXX-699).
6. Thesis/Dissertation committee is formed according to the regulations: The detailed guide to form thesis/dissertation committee can be found at (http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/unified.asp?pr_id=20&sh_id=21 and http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/unified.asp?pr_id=20&sh_id=22) or in the Graduate Bulletin on Page 67 which is available at (http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/files/current/Grad_Bulletin_09-11.pdf)

Documents to be submitted for the thesis/dissertation proposal approval are;

1. Duly filled and signed thesis/dissertation Forms: These forms are listed below and can be downloaded from (http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/_Forms.asp). Please be noted that these forms are not acceptable in hand-written form.
 - a. Application for admission to Candidacy.
 - b. Thesis/Dissertation Proposal Approval.
 - c. Recommendation for thesis/dissertation Committee Appointment.
2. The draft of thesis/dissertation proposal: It must be written in a professional manner fulfilling all the requirements of a technical document such as cover/title page, abstract, table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, introduction and/or background, literature survey, systems model, proposed

research, preliminary results (if available), expected outcomes, research methodology, bibliography, etc.

3. Curriculum Vitae of every Assistant Professor, Non-Faculty KFUPM Employees and Non-KFUPM Faculty/Professional, whose names are listed in the thesis/dissertation committee. The CVs at least include the professional experience, educational history and have the respective committee member's *refereed journal publications* highlighted clearly.

The required documents are to be submitted to the respective department of the student. The Department then forwards the proposal to the respective college once it is approved by the Department Council. Once the College Council approves the submitted proposal the College forwards it to the Deanship of Graduate Studies for final approval.

At the Deanship of Graduate Studies, the submitted thesis/dissertation proposals, documents and conditions are checked by its Academic Auditing Office and the proposal is officially approved once all the requirements are satisfied. It takes at least a working week for the thesis/dissertation proposal to be approved if all the requirements are fulfilled and there is no Non-Faculty KFUPM Employees or Non-KFUPM Faculty/Professionals in the committee. If there are, the proposal is to be approved by the Graduate Council, which takes at least a working month. *Please see Figure 1 for the graphical illustration of the whole procedure.*

For further information, please visit (http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/unified.asp?pr_id=20&sh_id=20) or Page-67 of Graduate Bulletin, which is available at (http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/files/current/Grad_Bulletin_09-11.pdf).

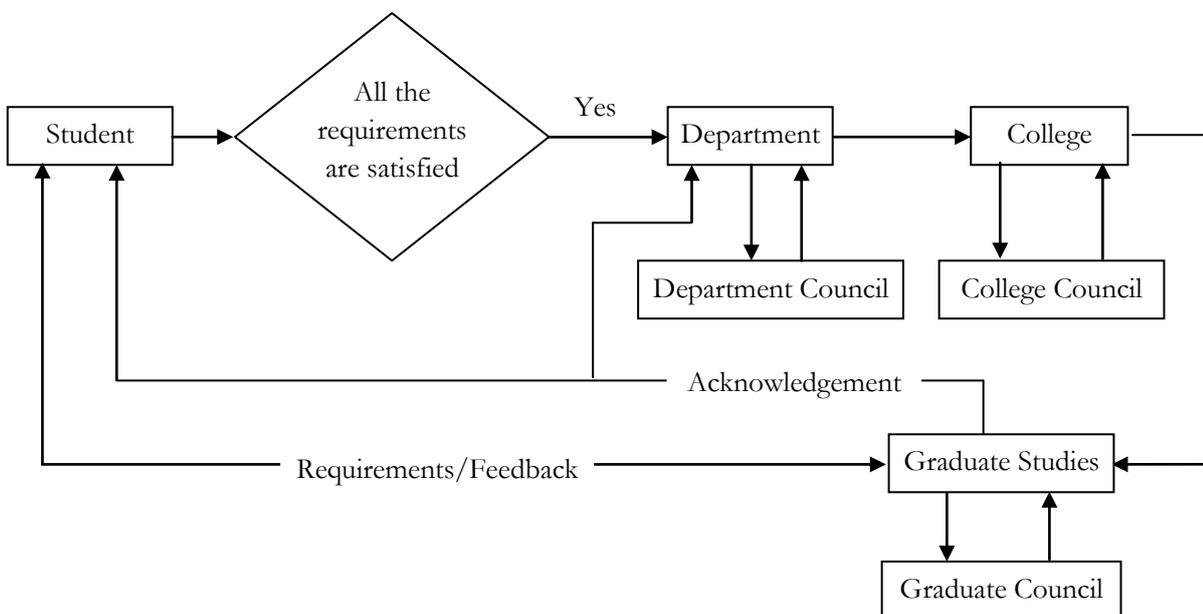


Figure 1: The process of thesis/dissertation proposal approval.

GUIDE TO PUBLIC ORAL DEFENSE

III. Public Oral Defense

For all students enrolled in thesis-based degree programs, it is required that they successfully defend their thesis/dissertation work publically. Since the Oral Defense is meant to be a public event, the students are not entitled to defend during;

- i. Registration period (usually the first two weeks of every semester).
- ii. Summer semester.
- iii. Final examination period.
- iv. Official breaks.

This leaves the students to defend their theses/dissertations only during the period between the third and the last weeks of Fall or Spring semesters.

To schedule for a public defense, a student is required to secure a formal approval from the Deanship of Graduate Studies after his Department and thesis/dissertation committee's approval. The request for oral defense should be submitted to the DGS at least two weeks prior to the defense date.

Following is the checklist, to be satisfied by the student before the submission of the request for Public Oral Defense:

1. Thesis Proposal is approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies at least two months prior to the submission of Request for Public Oral Defense of Thesis/Dissertation.
2. All course work is completed with a GPA of at least 3.00 out of 4.00, including the Seminar course is passed.
3. The student is registered for thesis/dissertation course (XXX-610 or XXX-710) in the term of public oral defense.
4. The venue of public oral defense is reserved for the duration of defense through the Registrar Office.

Upon meeting the above stated requirements, students are required to submit a request for public oral defense by downloading the form entitled as “**Request for Oral Defense for Thesis/ Dissertation**” from (<http://www.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/Forms.asp>). The form should be duly filled and signed by all the committee members and Department Chairman and submitted to the Deanship of Graduate Studies for the formal approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies. Upon approval, the student, thesis/dissertation advisor and Department are notified with the “Oral Defense Announcement” via email. Figure 2 elaborates this process.

After the successful Public Oral Defense, the student should submit the “Report on Oral Defense” (can be downloaded as an Adobe Pdf Form from http://www2.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/_Forms.asp), duly signed by the thesis/dissertation committee, to the Deanship of Graduate Studies within 03 days from the date of public oral defense. Subsequently, the student should finalize the thesis/dissertation write-

up, after necessary corrections/modifications/additions as recommended by the thesis/dissertation committee, to the Deanship of Graduate Studies for final review and approval before arranging for the thesis/dissertation binding. Figure 3 elaborates on this process.

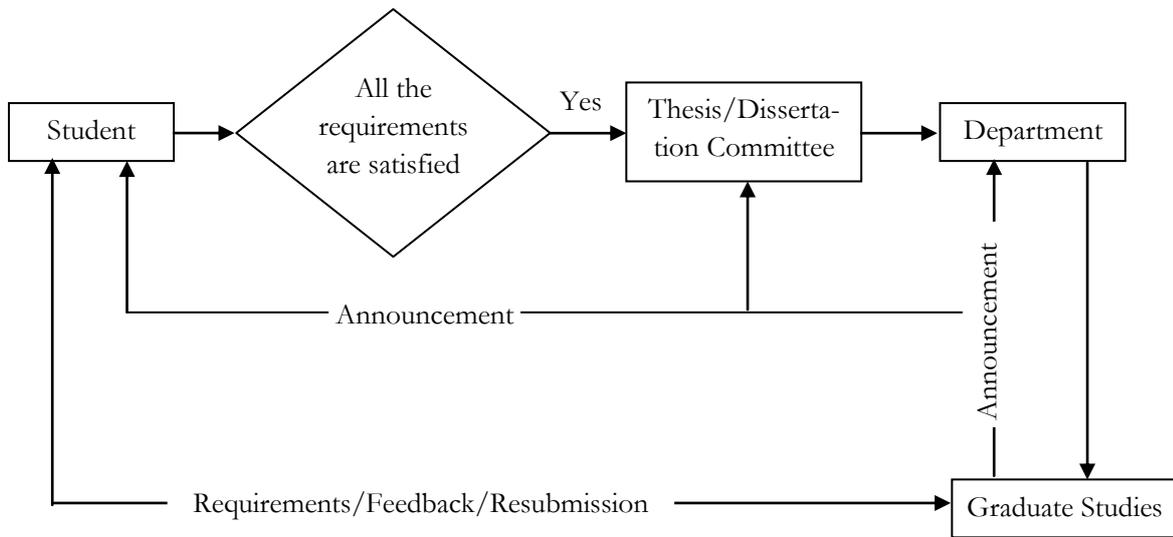


Figure 2: The process of application for thesis/dissertation public oral defense.

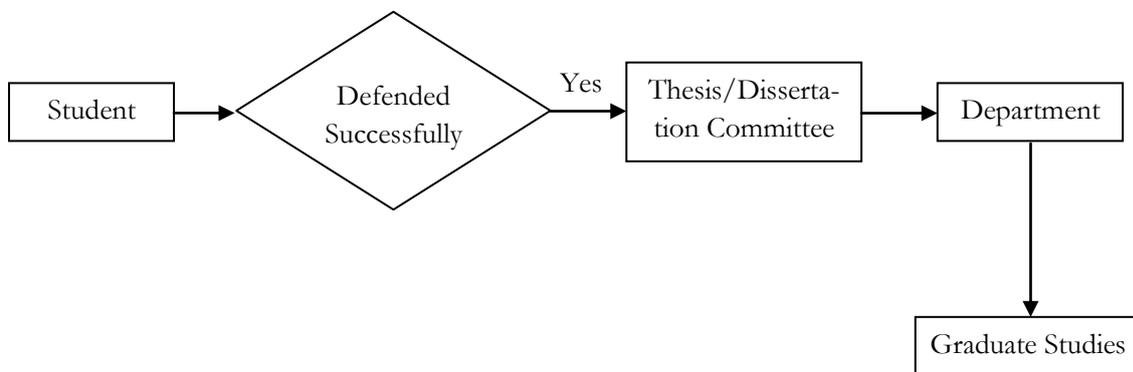


Figure 3: The process of reporting for successful thesis/dissertation public oral defense.

STEPS AFTER PUBLIC ORAL DEFENSE

IV. Steps After Public Oral Defense

After the successful defense of the thesis/dissertation, a student is required to submit the write-up of his thesis/dissertation to the Deanship of Graduate Studies after getting the thesis/dissertation committee's approval. This write-up is reviewed and if there are any corrections required, it is returned to the student for the needful action before the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies. Once all the corrections are done (if any), the final thesis/dissertation is approved/signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies and returned to the student so that he can make required copies and submit to the department and DGS after the binding. How this is done, is defined below;

1. The thesis/dissertation write-up along with a green cover page and the signature page are to be submitted to the Deanship of Graduate Studies. The green cover page can be acquired from the Deanship of Graduate Studies and should be printed with details of thesis/dissertation. The signature page (a template is provided in the Appendix) should be prepared by the student, and duly signed by thesis/dissertation Committee and the Department Chairman.
2. The submitted thesis/dissertation write-up will be reviewed by the Deanship of Graduate Studies for pagination, margins, diction, etc. If any corrections are required, the write-up is returned to the student for the needful action and he is asked to resubmit for final review and subsequently, the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies.
3. After the approval of thesis/dissertation write-up, the student is required to produce the copies of the final thesis/dissertation (as approved; including the green cover page and stamped approval page, both scanned in color) and arrange for the binding. Following are the required number of thesis copies:
 - a. **(04) Bound Copies, (01) Unbound Copy (along with the original approval page) and (02) CDs containing the PDF file of the thesis/dissertation (as approved), including the green cover page (scanned in color), stamped signature page (scanned in color)**, are to be submitted to the Deanship of Graduate Studies.
 - b. **(01) Bound Copy** is to be submitted to the Department.
 - c. **One Copy** is to be submitted to each of the Thesis/Dissertation Committee members including the advisor - **(03) or (05) bound copies**
 - d. **(01) Bound Copy** is for the student himself.
4. Research Assistants, Lecturer-Bs and Full-Time Students will be compensated for the expenses of binding if the original receipt is submitted to the Deanship of Graduate Studies.
5. **Thesis/Dissertation (as approved) must be uploaded through E-Prints:** details of the same can be found at (http://www1.kfupm.edu.sa/gs/main/ePrints_Guide.asp).

HOW TO PREPARE THESIS/DISSERTATION WRITE-UP

V. Preparing Thesis/Dissertation Write-up

This section provides the graduate students at King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals with a guide to write their M.Sc. Theses and PhD dissertations as per the requirements of Deanship of Graduate Studies.

This manual is a comprehensive document for the said purpose and describes the contents of the theses/dissertations, style and format requirements of the theses/dissertations, how the manuscript be produced which includes typing, copying, binding etc. The appendices provides templates for form for the title page, form for final approval, form for abstract, sample of the dedication, sample of the acknowledgement, sample of the table of contents, sample of the list of tables as well as a list of figures and several books pertaining to theses/dissertations preparation are listed in the references.

1. Contents of Thesis/Dissertation Write-up

The following items are to be included in the bound copy of a thesis/dissertation write-up in the exact order as given below;

1. Title Page
2. Approval Page
3. Dedication
4. Acknowledgement
5. Table of Contents
6. List of Tables
7. List of Figures
8. Abstract
9. Main Body
10. Appendix
11. Nomenclature
12. References
13. Vita

The Title page indicates the thesis/dissertation title, the full name of the author, degree (Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy,) and the date (month and year) of degree conferral. The Green Title page can be acquired from office of Deanship of Graduate Studies.

The title length typically should not exceed ten words.

The Final Approval is indicated by signatures, preferably in black ink, of the Thesis/Dissertation Committee members, the Department Chairman and the Dean of Graduate Studies. The date indicates the month and year of the degree conferral.

The Dedication which is optional, provides a means of recognizing an individual or individuals who have provided important moral and other support which has made the achievement possible

The Acknowledgement recognizes the assistance of the thesis/dissertation advisor and other members of the faculty and staff. Other specific contributions by professional people or institutions, such as librarians, correspondents and research foundations, should also be acknowledged. If financial support was provided, it is appropriate to recognize such assistance.

The Table of Contents Should be prepared after the manuscript has been completed. The table of contents should identify and locate by page number, the list of tables, list of Figures, Abstract, Chapters and subdivisions within the Main Body, Appendix, Nomenclature, References and Vita. All titles in the table of contents must correspond with the titles as they appear in the text.

The List of Tables identifies and locates each table by page number appearing in the Main Body and Appendix. The tables are to be numbered, using Arabic numerals in the order that they appear in the thesis/dissertation.

The List of Figures Identifies and locates each figure by page number appearing in the thesis/dissertation. The figures are to be numbered, using Arabic Numerals in the order that they appear in the thesis/dissertation.

The Abstract is a short and concise statement of the problem and solution dealt with in the *thesis/dissertation*. It should be written in English and Arabic on the Abstract forms, of no more than one page in length and exclusive of any references or citations.

As a requirement from the University Microfilms International, KFUPM theses/dissertations should not be more than 350-word abstract for Ph.D. Dissertation, and 150-word abstract for Master Thesis.

The **Main Body** of the **Thesis/Dissertation** should be developed after a detailed outline of its content is prepared. The body of the thesis/dissertation must be divided into chapters, not parts or sections. Chapter 1 should be an introductory chapter. The remaining chapters must include a documented statement of previous work in the field and should contain a delineation of the specific proposition to be examined, a complete explanation of the analysis, experiments and observations made by the student, and an adequate discussion of the results and their significance should be presented in terms of the purpose it serves in supporting the findings or solving the problem, and should not necessarily be

chronological unless this order leads logically to the resolution of the problem. Sufficient details of method and equipment should be provided to enable the work to be replicated, but minute and comprehensive details which are generally known or which can be covered by reference citations should be omitted. Metric units of measure should be used unless the actual measurements were made in Imperial/US units, in which case the metric equivalent should appear in parentheses.

The **Appendix** is a useful device to make available to the reader material related to the text but not suitable for inclusion in it. Such material may be in the form of tables too detailed for text presentation; technical notes on method, and schedules and forms used in collecting materials; copies of documents not generally available to the reader; case studies too long to be put into the text; and sometimes figures or other illustrative materials.

The **Nomenclature** provides the meaning of all symbols and variables used in the text.

The **References** provide a listing of all literature citations that have been helpful in preparing the thesis/dissertation. References that are cited in the body and appendices of the thesis/dissertation are indicated with a number (1, 2,...) in parentheses after the statement to be documented. The numbers should be listed in alphabetical order or in the order in which the citation first appears in the text.

The **Vita** is a biographical sketch of the author and must be included in each thesis/dissertation. All the educational institutions attended after graduation from high school and the date of receiving degrees should be included. The author should list personal information of a scholarly nature. Publications are not to be included as they are not considered information of a scholarly nature.

2. Style

The requirements pertaining to style are outlined in this section. Although students are required to conform to these regulations, they and their thesis committee retain certain flexibility in determining the format of tables, figures, illustrations, the dedication, acknowledgment, and table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, nomenclature and references.

i. Typefaces

Any standard typeface in pica or elite is acceptable, as is the use of a word processor. If there are any doubts about the acceptability of the typeface or process to be used, the Deanship of Graduate Studies should be consulted before typing the final draft

ii. Spacing

Double spacing is required in the body of the manuscript, and in the acknowledgments and abstracts. Tables, footnotes, appendices, and block quotations may be single-spaced. The table of contents, list of tables, list of figures and nomenclature may be single or double spaced. However, keep the goals of professional presentation in mind.

iii. Margins

The following margin requirements must be observed on all pages of the manuscript.

- a. Top: At least 2.5 cm plus one double space below the page number. Further, the page number should be centered at least 2.5 cm from the top, and 2.5 cm from the right edge.
- b. Left: At least 3.75 cm.
- c. Right: At least 2.5 cm.
- d. Bottom: At least 2.5 cm.

Remember that these margin requirements are minimum, not maximum widths and must be met for binding and microfilming purposes.

iv. Indentation

Each chapter in the body of the thesis is to start on a new page with the heading 5 cm from the top of the page. The chapter number and the chapter title are to be typed in upper case; if the title requires more than one line; additional lines are double-spaced and centered in inverted pyramid style.

There must be a triple space between the chapter number and the chapter title, and a triple space between the chapter title and the body of the text. The treatment of subtitles varies according to the number of levels required to present the material most effectively. If there are only two levels of subtitles, the first is centered with only major words capitalized and not underlined. The second is placed flush with the left margin and only major words capitalized, and underlined. If there are three levels of subtitles, the third one is a paragraph heading (indented the usual five spaces for a paragraph, but run into the paragraph followed by a period and underlined). Where four levels of subtitles are needed, the third level is indented five spaces from the left margin, only major words capitalized, and underlined (with the paragraph heading becoming the fourth subtitle). It is permissible (but not necessary) to designate the subtitles as A. 1, 1.1, or 1.1. This method must be followed throughout the entire thesis (body and appendices) if it is used at all; i.e., it cannot be used just in the appendices or in one chapter. A triple space precedes all headings and follows all except the paragraph heading. At least one line of text must follow subtitles at the bottom of a page. (Example of 4 Levels of Subtitles)

CHAPTER #

(Triple Space)

CHAPTER TITLE

(Triple Space)

FIRST LEVEL SUBTITLE

(Triple Space)

SECOND LEVEL SUBTITLE

(Triple Space)

THIRD LEVEL SUBTITLE

(Triple Space)

Fourth Level Subtitle. (Text follows immediately)

v. Pagination

All preliminary pages (except the title page and approval sheet) are numbered with small Roman numerals centered 2.5 cm from the bottom of the page. The title page and approval sheets are not numbered but are counted as pages i and ii. The main body, appendix, nomenclature and references should be numbered with Arabic numerals centered 2.5 cm from the top and 2.5 cm from the right edge. The exceptions to this requirement are as follows:

- a. The first page of each chapter should be centered 2.5 cm from the bottom of the page.
- b. The first page of the reference should be counted but not numbered.
- c. Any "title sheets" within the appendix or before the reference should be counted but not numbered.
- d. The vita should remain unnumbered.

vi. Numbers within the Text

Numbers used alone and in conjunction with a unit measurement often present problems as to when they should be written as numerals and when they should be spelled out. The following rules may be of assistance in this regard.

- a. Spell out a number at the beginning of a sentence, even if it is a part of a connected group for which numerals are used. A better plan is to reconstruct the sentence so as not to begin with a number.

- b. Spell out expressions of measurements when they are not preceded by a number. When they are preceded by a number use the official metric abbreviations (m, kg, 1, etc.). Care should be exercised to distinguish between the letter "l" and the number "1". No period follows these abbreviations.
- c. To avoid confusion, spell out a set of figures in an expression involving two or more series of figures.

For example

In a test performed six months later, ninety-seven samples had no errors; eighty-two had 1-2 errors, sixty-four had 3-4 errors...

- d. Do not use the symbol for percent (%) when it is not preceded by a figure. Percentage, not per cent, percent, or %.
- e. A fraction is written out when used alone but when combined with a whole number, it appears in the digital form.

For example

“One-half” but “3 1/2”, or better “3.5”

vii. Equations and Formulae

Use quadruple spacing around all equations and formulae that are to be set off from the body of the text. Most equations and formulae should be set off and indented.

Use the slant line or 'slash', /, for simple fractions. If parentheses, (), or brackets, [], are required, use the built-up fractions with horizontal lines, e.g. $\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]$. The meaning of all symbols and variables used in the text should be given in a nomenclature. Special elements for typing mathematical symbols are available via the Graduate Office.

Equations may be numbered sequentially within each chapter or within the entire thesis. Single numbers (i.e. Equation (1)), chapter numbers (i.e., Equation (1-1)) may be used at the discretion of the writer, and his committee. Regardless of which method is used, the number is placed at the right margin in parentheses.

viii. References

With the approval of the relevant thesis committee, the form of documentation and bibliographical style found in standard manuals may be followed (1-5). Citations should be single-spaced with double spacing between them. For abbreviations of journal names, use Biosis and suggested revisions in the

International List of Periodical Tide Word Abbreviations. If the journal is not listed, provide the full name.

ix. Illustrations

Diagrams, graphs, maps, photographs, or other illustrations should be unshaded and follow immediately their first mention in the body of the text. They should always be on a *separate page*, and be numbered consecutively throughout the entire text. The caption should read "Figure 1, 2, 3, etc." followed by a brief legend in sentence form. This line should appear directly above the bottom margin of the page (2.5 cm above the bottom). Do not incorporate the legend in the illustration itself, or combine line drawings and photographs in one illustration.

x. Tables

If tables are to serve adequately the purpose for which they are presented, they not only must be accurately compiled but also must be so arranged that they can be easily read and interpreted. Careful spacing, aligning, arrangement of headings, period leaders, and finally the placing of the tables in the text all contribute to this end. A table should follow immediately after the page on which it is first mentioned.

Each table should be typed on a separate sheet of thesis paper. Double spacing should be used throughout and the units of measure should be given for each column heading. Vertical or horizontal rules should not be used except after the heading and at the bottom of the table.

The tides should be centered above the table itself. The word "TABLE" should be in capital letters and the number should be in full-size Roman numerals. A double line should separate the caption of the table from the table itself. In the caption, capitalize all words except articles and prepositions.

xi. Computer Printouts

Computer printouts should be programmed to have margins corresponding to the instructions above.

xii. Appendices

A great deal of freedom is allowed in the appendix sections with respect to spacing and presentation. However, all material must be clear, on one side of the page, meet the margin requirements of the rest of the thesis, and be continuously numbered from the body of thesis.

It is suggested that each appendix be given a tide sheet in order to clearly identify its contents and to provide a clear, logical break from appendix to appendix. The identifying appendix number or letter and

the title of the appendix should appear on this page. The title sheet should be counted, but not numbered, and should be listed in the Table of Contents as the first page of that appendix.

xiii. Abbreviations

Abbreviations are not acceptable in the narrative unless they are preceded by a measure of time or units of measurement.

3. Production Requirements

Because theses are microfilmed, certain regulations regarding typing and reproduction are required.

The following procedures apply to all theses submitted in fulfillment of the graduate degree requirements of King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals.

1. Four bound copies and one clean unbound copy of the thesis in its final form, formally approved by the Thesis Committee, the Department Chairman, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, must be deposited in the Graduate Office before the degree is conferred. No corrections may be made to the thesis after it has been formally approved.
2. In addition to the five copies, the completed thesis should be submitted on disk(s)/ CD to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.
3. The manuscript should be typed or printed on *permalife* paper, or on paper of equivalent archival quality (plain white bond, acid-free, 8.5x11 inches). Corrasable paper is unacceptable. The copy should be on white paper of good quality. Twenty-pound paper, used for photocopy machines, is a good minimum standard.
4. Margins. The following margins should be observed: the margin on the left (the binding side) should be 1.5 inches wide. The top, bottom and right-hand margins should be 1 inch wide. Any manuscript with margins, which do not meet these guidelines, will be returned to the candidate for correction.
5. Manuscripts should be typed in a word processor on a regular 12 point font size. It should be printed using a laser printer with a resolution of at least 300 dots per inch. Typing on the back of a page is not permitted, and typed pages should not face each other.
6. Line drawings, figures, tables and graphs should be unshaded and placed at the center of the page.
7. Graph, drawings and photographs. Graphs may be put on cross-section paper but the margins specified above should be preserved. If graphs are necessarily larger than the thesis paper, they should be

folded and pasted within the required margins. Photostatic copies of drawings may be used. Photographs may be pasted on the thesis paper within the specified margins. Do not use scotch tape or rubber cement in attaching charts, photographs, etc. Use a good glue or library paste.

8. Black-and-white photographs should have a glossy finish with sharp contrast between the black and white areas. When necessary, the magnification should be indicated with a scale line on the photograph. The image area should be no more than 6 x 9 inches to leave the required margins. Because color photographs do not reproduce satisfactorily, they should be submitted in original form for every set of the manuscript.
9. The reproduction of the thesis/dissertation is the responsibility of the candidate.
10. The preparation of the official cover and binding of the thesis/dissertation is to be done by a competent printing press.

4. References

1. Manheimer, M.L., Style Manual. Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York, 1973.
2. M.L.A. Handbook: For Writers of Research Papers. Theses and Dissertations. Modern Language Association, New York, 1977.
3. Riebel, J.P., How to Write Reports. Papers. Theses. Articles. Arco Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1972.
4. Turabian, K.L., A Manual for Writers of Term Papers. Theses and Dissertations. 4th Edition, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1973.
5. University of Southern California Regulations for Format and Presentation of Thesis and Dissertations. Office of University Publications, Los Angeles, 1970.

COMMON ERRORS ENCOUNTERED IN THESIS/DISSERTATION REVIEW

VI. Errors and the Required Amendments

This section highlights the common mistakes/errors that the reviewers found while reviewing the thesis/dissertation. To help avoiding the known mistakes/errors, please take the following in account. To achieve excellence, your thesis/dissertation must be brief and clear.

1. Verbiage and Repetitions

Delete all the useless verbiage such as *"Here it must be pointed out that..."* Re-word all redundant phrases. For example, write *"wherever corrosion is found"* instead of *"in each and every specific environment where corrosion is found"*.

Instead of repeating a noun, use a pronoun. For example, write *"Initially the temperature rose, but later it fell"* instead of *"Initially the temperature rose, but later the temperature fell"*.

Instead of repeating a verb, use DO/DOES/DID or another suitably short wording.

For example, write *"The pressure rose, and so did the temperature"* or (even better) write *"The pressure and the temperature both rose"* but you should seldom write *"The pressure rose, and the temperature also rose"*.

2. Excessive Nominalizations

To get rid of a long awkward noun-phrase, use a verb. For example, write *"X explains Y"* instead of *"X provides an explanation of Y"*.

Similarly, write *"The mechanism was activated electrically"* instead of *"Electrical activations were carried out on the mechanism"*.

3. Muddled Reasoning

Cut each long sentence into 2-3 shorter sentences. Optionally number them, and/or organize them by length or other criteria. Rearrange or simplify the phrases.

For example, write

"Besides the extra output of oil, this method produced three further benefits. (1) It conserved the potential of the extra new wells, by deferring their use. (2) It utilized the in-house approach to avoid the high cost of the diagnostic tools offered by the service companies". (3) It reduced the cost of treating the water, partly by reducing the water production, and partly by using the existing assets, for instance by dismantling the flow-lines from the wells that were completely swept".

instead of

"Besides the extra output of oil, further benefits were obtained from this method, in that it firstly conserved the potential of the extra new wells by deferring their use, and in addition it reduced the water treatment cost by reducing the water production and using the existing assets, by dismantling the flow-lines from the wells that were completely swept, and finally the high cost of the service companies' diagnostic tools was avoided by utilizing the in-house approach".

4. Misfits and Dangers

To clarify a confusing or ambiguous misfit, reorganize the sentence. For example, write "*A ball-point pen consists of a cap, a tip assembly, a rigid outer tube, and a narrower inner tube, which contains ink*" instead of "*A ball-point pen consists of a rigid outer tube, a narrower inner tube, which contains ink, a tip assembly and a cap*".

To clarify and tidy a loose final dangler, reverse the sentence. For example, write

"... *as confirmed by Acton (1998), Brumby (2003) and Carter (2005)*" instead of "... *as Acton (1998), Brumby (2003) and Carter (2005) confirmed*".

5. Organization and the Verb-Tenses

Although English verb-tenses are very complex, the advice below is usually valid. By following it, you will organize your thesis so that the readers can understand it.

Use the past tense about previous research, especially in your review of the literature, but use the present or future tense to differentiate your own research.

Use the past tense to report your procedures step-by-step, but use the "*have done*" tense for your results which remain true now.

Use the present-simple tense:

- a. To describe your findings
- b. To discuss your results
- c. To interpret your observations or conclusions as broad general facts.

6. Singular or Plural Verb

Make sure each verb is correctly singular or plural, especially if the sentence has a lot of different-numbered nouns before the verb.

For example,

"The value of the facts and their causes and effects is..."

differs in meaning from

"The value of the facts and their causes and effects are..."

7. Consistency in the Details

Comma: Use every comma carefully between clauses and phrases, so that the readers understand immediately without analyzing or re-reading.

For example, the following two sentences have different meanings, and the presence or absence of both commas is significant:

"The research, which was funded by Aramco, was successful." *"The research which was funded by Aramco was successful."*

Captions: In captions, avoid the words *"chart of I "map of I "photo of I* etc, and also avoid the words *"a/an/the"*, especially at the start.

Hyphen: Use or omit the hyphen as shown in the Longman English dictionary.

For example, the noun is *"setup"* or *"set-up"*, but the verb is *"set up"*.

Spacing: In lists & texts, choose single or double spacing, but do not mix both.

Lettering: In lists & tables, use capitals & lower-case consistently, not randomly.

UPLOADING THESIS / DISSERTATION THROUGH EPRINTS

VII. Guideline for Uploading Thesis/Dissertation through *ePrints*

The Deanship of Graduate Studies requires all graduate students to upload their theses/dissertations through the new research repository at KFUPM, *ePrints*, using the guidelines provided below. Please note that this is only for those graduate students who have to submit their thesis/dissertation as a part of their degree completion.

1. Go to the URL: <http://eprints.kfupm.edu.sa/>
2. Click the **Login** button, which can be found on the website menu.
3. Enter your KFUPM **username** and **password** after which you will be logged in to **e-Prints**. *(If you do not have a KFUPM username / password, please contact ITC 860 3900)*
4. Click the button “**New Item**”.
5. Select the item type as “**Thesis**” and then click “**Next**” on the top or bottom of the page.
6. Click **browse** to find the location of your document. The document to be uploaded is one PDF file containing the whole thesis/dissertation including the scanned green cover page and the scanned stamped signature page.
7. Click “**Upload**” to upload the browsed file.
8. As soon as the document is uploaded, a couple of options appear.
9. Two options are to be modified:
10. “**Visible to**” option to be changed to “**Registered User only**”
11. “**Embargo Expiry Date**” to be changed to a date when you want this document to be publicly accessible. **A maximum of one year can be chosen.**
12. Click “**Next**”.
13. Enter all the obligatory items on this page and click “**Next**”.
14. In the section for choosing the subjects, select the subjects in which the thesis/dissertation falls and click “**Next**”.
15. Click “**Deposit Item Now**”.
16. Click **Logout** Button to logout of the system.
17. After this step, the document will go to the Deanship of Graduate Studies for approval.
18. If any discrepancy is found, it will be returned to the student for modifications.

GUIDE TO GRADUATION PROCESS

VIII. Graduation Process

After completing all of the degree requirements, a student should apply for his graduation. For this purpose, he is required to ensure the following;

1. Completed all the course requirements as per his approved degree plan with a CGPA of at least 3.00 out of 4.00.
2. Passed the thesis/dissertation course (XXX-610 or XXX-710) successfully with “**NP**” grade.
3. Submitted Oral Defense Report to the Deanship of Graduate Studies.
4. Final thesis/dissertation write-up is approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.
5. Steps after defense are completed (*please refer to Section IV of this guide for details*).

Upon completion of the above requirements, the student has to begin the process of graduation. This process varies for Full-time Students and Graduate Assistants, Research Assistants and Lecturer-B’s; and Part-time Students.

1. Full-time Students and Graduate Assistants

The Full-time students and Graduate Assistants do not require any clearance for Deanship of Graduate Studies. Upon the submission of the final bound copy of thesis/dissertation to the Department, the Department notifies the Deanship of Graduate Studies of “Degree Requirements Completion”. Based on this memorandum, the Deanship of Graduate Studies notifies, after ensuring that all of the degree requirements are satisfied, the Office of the University Registrar for the issuance of the Graduation Certificate to the student. Subsequently, the student is issued with a Provisional Certificate from the Alumni Department at Deanship of Student Affairs.

2. Research Assistants and Lecturer-B’s

The Research Assistants and Lecturer-B’s are required to undergo “Contract Termination” which is initiated from their Departments, concurred by the Dean of Graduate Studies and, is done at the Office of the Personnel Affairs. A copy of the “Clearance Form” (part of the contract termination process) is then to be submitted at the Deanship of Graduate Studies.

Upon the submission of the final bound copy of the thesis/dissertation to the Department, the Department notifies the Deanship of Graduate Studies of “Degree Requirements Completion”. Based on this memorandum, the Deanship of Graduate Studies notifies, after ensuring that all of the degree requirements are satisfied, the Office of the University Registrar for the issuance of the Graduation Certificate to the student. Subsequently, the student is issued a Provisional Certificate from the Alumni Department at Deanship of Student Affairs.

3. Part-time Students

Part-Time students are required to complete the “**Clearance Procedure for Part-time Students**” (the form for which can be attained from the Department). A copy of the “Clearance Form” is then to be submitted at the Deanship of Graduate Studies.

Upon the submission of the final bound copy of the thesis/dissertation to the department, the department notifies the Deanship of Graduate Studies of “Degree Requirements Completion”. Based on this memorandum, the Deanship of Graduate Studies notifies, after ensuring that all of the degree requirements are satisfied, the Office of the University Registrar for the issuance of the Graduation Certificate to the student. Subsequently, the student is issued a Provisional Certificate from the Alumni Department at Deanship of Student Affairs.

APPENDICES

Template for the MS Thesis Cover Page

<TITLE OF THESIS>

By

<Full Name of AUTHOR>

A Thesis Presented to the

DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES

in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements

for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

In

<major>

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

DATE: *<date>*

Template for the PhD Dissertation Cover Page

<TITLE OF DISSERTATION>

By

<Full Name of AUTHOR>

A Dissertation Presented to the

DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES

in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements

for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In

<major>

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS

Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

DATE: *<date>*

Template for the Signature Page of MS Thesis

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS

DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES

This thesis, written by *<name of the student>* under the direction of his thesis advisor and approved by his thesis committee, has been presented to and accepted by the Dean of Graduate Studies, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF SCIENCE** in *<MAJOR>*.

Thesis Committee

Thesis Advisor
< name >

Co-advisor/Member
<name >

Member
<name >

Department Chairman
<name >

Member
<name >

Dean of Graduate Studies
<name >

Member
<name >

Date

Template for the Signature Page PhD Dissertation

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS

DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA

DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES

This dissertation, written by *<name of the student>* under the direction of his dissertation advisor and approved by his dissertation committee, has been presented to and accepted by the Dean of Graduate Studies, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in *<MAJOR>*.

Dissertation Committee

Thesis Advisor
< name >

Co-advisor/Member
<name >

Member
<name >

Department Chairman
<name >

Member
<name >

Dean of Graduate Studies
<name >

Member
<name >

Date

Templates for the MS Thesis Abstract

THESIS ABSTRACT

FULL NAME OF STUDENT

TITLE OF STUDY

MAJOR FIELD

DATE OF DEGREE

ملخص الرسالة

الاسم:

عنوان الرسالة:

الختصاص:

تاريخ التخرج:

Templates for the PhD Dissertation Abstract

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

FULL NAME OF STUDENT

TITLE OF STUDY

MAJOR FIELD

DATE OF DEGREE

ملخص بحث

درجة الدكتوراه في الفلسفة

الاسم:

عنوان الرسالة:

الختصاص:

تاريخ التخرج:

Sample of Acknowledgement

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Acknowledgment is due to the King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals for supporting this research.

I wish to express my appreciation to *<name of advisor>* who served as my major advisor. I also wish to thank the other members of my thesis/dissertation committee *<coadvisor's/member's name>*, *< member's name>*, *< member's name>* and *< member's name>*

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