Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering
Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

Guidelines for Manuscript-Style Master's Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation

Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

A *manuscript-style thesis or dissertation* is based on a collection of journal papers authored or co-authored by the student, formed as an alternative to the traditional thesis or dissertation format. The journal papers must have a coherent theme to the thesis or dissertation and be presented in a cohesive manner. The decision to proceed with a manuscript-type thesis or dissertation is made in consultation with the student's supervisor(s)/supervisory committee. They must ensure that the thesis or dissertation meets the listed criteria and format, outlined below.

CRITERIA

The following criteria are essential for the submission of a *manuscript-style thesis or dissertation*.

1. A Master's thesis must contain a minimum of one journal paper.
2. A Doctoral dissertation must contain a minimum of three journal papers, each making an original and significantly different contribution.
3. The student must be the principle author, the one who has made the most substantial contribution to the listed minimum number of journal papers included in the thesis or dissertation. Beyond this minimum, the thesis or dissertation may with justification, include journal papers where the student is not the "principle" author.
4. The contribution of the candidate to each paper must be stated clearly in the thesis or dissertation – usually in the introductory sections where the thesis or dissertation structure is described. In all cases the student must be prepared to stand for, and defend all of the work included in the thesis or dissertation.
5. The papers should be deemed ready for submission by the supervisors; or under review; or published; or in-press; or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals in the student's field of study.

FORMAT

The format of a *manuscript-style thesis or dissertation* must conform to that of traditional thesis or dissertation as regulated by the Yeates School of Graduate Studies

(https://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/student-guide/academic-matters/dissertation-thesis-exams/), with the exception of the following changes:

1. The thesis or dissertation must include an Introduction that focuses on developing the relationships between the journal papers, provides a coherent theme, and presents the theoretical underpinnings of the research.
2. The Introduction must also include a statement of authorship, and full citations of the published journal papers. For journal papers with co-authors, the contribution of the student, with respect to the conception of the experiments, data collection, data analysis, and writing of the text, must be clearly stated. Data that was collected or experimental techniques that were conducted by someone other than the student must be clearly indicated.
3. Citations, cross-references, figures, and tables, etc. must be re-numbered to conform to the appropriate chapter of the thesis or dissertation. A separate reference list for each chapter is acceptable; however, a complete bibliography or reference list must be included in the back matter.
4. A concluding chapter should be included which ties together topics and themes from the journal papers; outlines the major contributions of the work; the overall conclusions; and points towards future work.