

**TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY**  
**GRADUATE SCHOOL**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE**  
**MULTI-ARTICLE DISSERTATION**

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**Do I have the option to do the multi-manuscript dissertation?**

Not all departments and programs have adopted the multi-article dissertation option. Students should speak with their dissertation chair or consult their program-specific student manuals to determine whether this option is available and/or will best meet their needs and experience.

**Are the Graduate School requirements for the prospectus any different for the multi-article dissertation from the traditional dissertation?**

The graduate school requirements of the prospectus are the same for both traditional and multi-article dissertations. The only difference between the two would be the content of the prospectus, wherein the multi-article prospectus should include information specific to the collection of proposed papers, such as identifying if any previously published or accepted for publication papers will be used.

**Is my program's dissertation proposal/prospectus process any different for multi-article dissertation from the traditional dissertation?**

The format and style of the dissertation proposal/prospectus is decided by the student's academic component and dissertation committee. For some programs, the style and format of the dissertation proposal/prospectus does not differ between the multi-article and traditional options while other programs have differing requirements for each option.

**Do I need to be the lead author on the papers to be included?**

Yes, PhD students must be listed as the lead author on all papers, which represent the student's own original work. Authorship will be determined by the student in consultation with the Dissertation Chair and Committee, who must follow Texas Woman's University policy on authorship: [UPR 02.440 Authorship in Scholarly or Scientific Publications](#).

**Do I need to include a Literature Review chapter?**

The graduate school does NOT require a literature review chapter. However, the students' academic component or dissertation committee may require a separate literature review chapter, a literature review as part of the introductory chapter, or one of the papers to be a literature review.

**What is the length of the papers?**

The papers must be complete, full-length articles. Abstracts, monographs or short summaries do not fulfill the requirement for the multi-article dissertation. One of the required papers may be either a scholarly review of the literature or have a theoretical focus. Ultimately, the required length of each paper is determined by the dissertation committee, discipline, and/or selected journal.

**Do I need to submit any forms if I choose to complete the multi-article dissertation?**

The graduate school does not require any unique form requiring students to select a dissertation format. However, the student's academic component may have additional forms.

**Should I publish my dissertation papers before or after graduation?**

It depends. In some fields, students can apply their published papers toward their promotion and tenure if they are published after their first faculty position. However, students will be more competitive on the

academic job market if they have more publications. Students are highly encouraged to speak with their Dissertation Chair and Committee regarding timing of submission for publication.

### **Can I use any papers that have already been submitted or accepted for publication?**

No more than one of the papers used in the multi-article dissertation may include manuscripts that have been submitted for publication prior to submission of the dissertation prospectus or committee approval of the dissertation proposal. However, the work of any previously published papers must have been accomplished during the student's doctoral program. It is the purview of the dissertation committee to evaluate and determine whether any previously published papers may be included in the multi-article dissertation.

### **Why does copyright matter with a multi-article dissertation?**

As an author, you hold the copyright to your original work until you transfer the copyright to someone else, for example, to a journal when your article is accepted for publication. This is a typical part of the publication process and not a cause for concern. Unlike a traditional dissertation, where the author owns the copyright to all original content, in a multi-article dissertation, your publisher may hold the copyright to some of your chapters. As a result, the author must follow the publisher's terms and conditions related to what they may do with their work. For multi-article dissertation authors, it is important to determine whether or not your publisher will allow you to include your article in your dissertation and place it in TWU's institutional repository.

### **Can I submit my dissertation articles to any journal I want?**

Each publisher has different rules about what an author can do with their work. The answer to this question depends on the publisher or journal.

Your dissertation will be placed in the Repository@TWU, an openly accessible institutional repository that preserves and shares TWU scholarship. Because your work will be housed in the repository, you need to be sure that the journals you consider will:

1. Allow your article to be included in a thesis or dissertation
2. Allow a version of your article (pre-print, post-print, published) to be openly available through the institutional repository.

### **What format should I use for my dissertation of papers?**

Students should consult with their dissertation committee, who will have recommendations for appropriate journals. As disciplines and journals vary in format and style, students are encouraged to prepare the papers in the format that will meet the specifications of the journals to which they plan to submit.

### **How do the traditional and multi-article dissertation differ?**

The two options differ in format rather than content or quality. The expectations for a final and approved dissertation remain the same for both the traditional and multi-manuscript options. Please see the table below for a comparison of the two different dissertation styles.

	<b>Traditional Dissertation</b>	<b>Multi-Article Dissertation</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	Chapter 1, introduces the dissertation	Chapter 1, introduces the collection of articles
<b>Literature Review</b>	Chapter 2	Included in each of the papers as appropriate to the discipline
<b>Methodology</b>	Chapter 3	Included in each of the papers as appropriate to the discipline

<b>Results/Research Findings</b>	Chapter 4	Included in each of the papers as appropriate to the discipline
<b>Summary, Interpretations, Conclusions, Recommendations for Future Research</b>	Chapter 5	Chapter 5, provides summaries, etc. of the included papers
<b>References</b>	One reference section for whole document following the final chapter	Each chapter contains its own reference section
<b>Appendices</b>	Optional at end of document	Optional at end of document