

Guidelines for the Dissertation of Three Publishable Papers

The following information explains the process of a PhD dissertation consisting of three publishable papers as an alternative format to the conventional format of the PhD dissertation.

	Conventional Dissertation	Three Papers Dissertation
Introduction and Outline of the Problem	√	
Introduction to the Overall Topic		Include the logical link between the three papers
Conceptual or Theoretical Framework	√	√
Literature Review	√	Included in three papers
Methodology	√	Included in three papers
Results (Research Findings)	√	Included in three papers
Three separate, publishable papers of normal journal article length related to the overall theme		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Paper • Second Paper • Third Paper
Summary, Interpretations, Conclusions, Recommendations for Policy and/or Further Research	√	Concluding scholarly discussion of the implications of the integrated findings
Resources	√	Included in three papers
Appendices	optional	optional

Questions and Answers:

Is the proposal defense the same even if I choose to do a dissertation of three papers?

Yes, at the time of the proposal defense, the Dissertation Committee must approve the selection of the three-paper option. During the final oral defense, the Dissertation Committee will judge the quality and acceptability of the papers and must agree that they are of sufficient scholarly quality and scientific merit to be suitable for publication in refereed journals in your discipline.

Do the three papers have to be published before I submit my dissertation?

No, the three papers do not need to be published, but they must be of *publishable* quality. The article titles, authorship and potential journals for submission must be agreed upon by the student and the Dissertation Committee. Papers may be submitted for publication prior to the Final Oral Defense only with the full approval of all Dissertation Committee members. Upon successful final oral defense, the papers are to be submitted to refereed journals. Evidence of manuscript submission, as determined at the defense, is required prior to final dissertation signatures.

Do I need to be the primary author on the journal articles?

Yes, PhD students must be listed as first authors on all three papers, which represent the student's own original work. Authorship will be determined by the student in consultation with the Dissertation Committee. Committee members will be listed if they have contributed written feedback to the papers.

Do I need to include a *Literature Review* chapter in the dissertation of three papers?

No, the dissertation of three papers does not require a separate chapter for the literature review. Each of the three papers will contain relevant literature that is normally included in academic journal articles. The format of the literature reviews should align with the specifications of the appropriate journals in your discipline.

Do I need to include a *Background* chapter in the dissertation of three papers?

No, the dissertation of three papers does not require a separate chapter for the background information. The context of the empirical work is included in each of the publishable papers.

What is the length of the three papers?

The papers must be complete, full-length articles. Abstracts, monographs or short summaries do not fulfill the requirement. One of the three required papers may be either a scholarly review of the literature or have a theoretical focus.

Do I need to submit any forms if I choose to complete the dissertation of three papers?

Yes, the attached form must be submitted to the FSPH Student Services Office.

Should I publish my dissertation papers before or after graduation?

It depends. Students can apply their published papers toward their promotion and tenure if they are published after their first faculty position. On the other hand, students will be more competitive in the job search if they have more publications.

What format should I use for my dissertation of three papers?

Consult with your dissertation committee. They will have recommendations for you. Journals vary in format and style. Prepare your papers in the format that will meet the specifications of the journals to which you plan to submit.

Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health

Dissertation of Three Papers

Submit this form to the Student Services Office

Student's Name: _____

University ID: _____

Dissertation Committee Members:

1. Chair: _____

2. Member: _____

3. Member: _____

4. Member (optional): _____

5. Minor Rep: _____

Proposed Dissertation Title: _____

	Proposed Title of Each Paper
Paper #1	
Paper #2	
Paper #3	

Committee Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____