

2012

Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul

Yeungnam University

[THESIS GUIDE

for PSPS students]

Overview

The thesis (or a seminar paper) is a scholarly or practical treatise that examines a specific topic or issue that is conducted by students during their graduate study. For a master's degree, all requirements, including filing a thesis or a seminar paper and obtaining a minimum of 39 credits or 42 credits (in a case of a seminar paper), are expected to be completed within one and half years

The Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul (PSPS) sets thesis guidelines for your writing for the master's degree. Although the contents and length can be decided by you and your advisor, the School recommends you to consider the thesis guide.

Word limit

Master's candidates should write up a thesis of approximately 25,000-30,000 words (245 words on a double-spaced page) and a seminar paper of 15,000-25,000 words. The word limit is exclusive of words in tables, figures, references and appendices. Footnotes are included as part of word limit. In exceptional circumstances, the expected length of the thesis (or a seminar paper) can be adjusted by the advisor and head of departments.

Order of Contents

The following document order is recommended for a thesis or a seminar paper:

- Title page
- Advisor approval page
- Abstract
- Acknowledgements
- Table of contents
- Main text
- Bibliography
- Appendices (optional)

Students can download a related document from the Graduate School website (http://graduate.yu.ac.kr/graduate/sub05_a.htm)

Guide for writing a thesis or a seminar paper

- Abstract

Summarizes problem statements, your research methods, key results and findings and conclusions and usually does not exceed 200 words in length.

- Introduction

Introduction should include problem statements, research aims and objectives and research design. Student should write logically 'what is the topic and why is it important?'. Also, introduction should be interesting to the readers as well as you. Make the readers want to read your works. If you want to gain further information, read several thesis introductions.

- Literature review

The literature review 1) helps you identify work already done or in progress that is relevant to your work, 2) prevents you from duplicating what has already been done, 3) helps you design the method for your project and 4) enables you to find gaps in existing research, thereby giving you a specific topic. The purposes of the literature review can be summarized as follow;

1. Distinguishing what has been done from what needs to be done;
2. Discovering key variables related to your topic;
3. Identifying relationships between idea and practice;
4. Setting up the context of the topic or problem;
5. Rationalizing the importance of the problem;
6. Relating ideas and theory to applications;
7. Identifying the key methods and research techniques that have been used.

How many articles do students review? That is a matter of judgement. However, you as a researcher should be able to demonstrate your arguments based on the existing literature. For further information or knowledge, you had better read research methodology papers.

- Method

Explain the detailed procedures of research clearly. Quantitative research may include research design, research model, hypotheses and operational definitions for the main variables. Since research methods vary enormously, the choice of the appropriate methodology relies on your decision. We recommend you to discuss this with your advisor.

- Results and discussion

The results and discussion are often combined but can be presented in two chapters. However, make sure that at first, you should demonstrate what you found in each set of results before you begin discussion. For instance, when you carried out a quantitative study, the general principle is to state statistical results in a table or figure. Then you can interpret the significant statistical effects

of a test and inform the reader of the meaning of the effects.

In general, most research need discussion. What do the statistical effects mean? What are the gaps between the existing literature and your outcomes, and why? What implications from your research can be drawn?

- References

References should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters "a", "b", "c", etc., placed after the year of publication.

Examples:

Drucker, P., Hanraads, J., and Lupton, R.A. (2000), The art of writing a scientific article, *Journal of Scientific Communication*, vol. 163, 51-59.

Formatting Requirements

1. Language

The thesis or seminar paper must be written in English

2. Page size

Page size must be international standard paper size (A4)

3. Font

Text must be Times New Roman, 11-point

Smaller font size may be appropriate for footnote or other material outside of the main text

4. Margins

Left and right margins of no less than 30mm and page numbers that appear inside the margins

5. Spacing

Text must be 1.5 spacing with the exception of quotations as paragraphs, captions, graphs, footnotes/endnotes, lists in appendices and etc.

6. Tables/Figures

Tables/Figures should be consecutively numbered and centered within the left and right margins.