

Health, Kinesiology, and Recreation Three Article Dissertation (TAD) Format

Proposal Meeting

Students formally present their plan for data collection and analysis during the formal proposal meeting. The supervisory committee will provide feedback for areas of improvement related to the student's research plan. All three internal committee members must approve the dissertation. A final approval to move forward and to submit the IRB will be given to the student depending on revisions or changes.

The proposal should be distributed to the committee a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the meeting. It should include:

- An introduction chapter with theoretical foundations and literature review, statement of the problem, and proposed manuscripts (Chapter 1).
- A manuscript that is ready to submit to a peer-reviewed journal that is either a theoretical paper, position paper, results of a pilot study, or other appropriate article. This should serve as the first article of the TAD format (Chapter 2)
- IRB proposal draft for articles 2 and 3.
- Following the proposal, the supervisory committee chair will circulate a memorandum to the committee and the student to ensure a mutual understanding of the proposal outcome and document research expectations.

Dissertation Format

After the formal proposal is approved, the student will submit the necessary IRB proposal and conduct the research. The final report of the doctoral research project is written as a dissertation. The dissertation should be formatted in the three article dissertation (TAD) format as described below.

- The TAD format involves the joining of three or more full-length manuscripts with introductory and summarizing sections.
- The dissertation should have a coherent topic with an introduction presenting the general theme of the dissertation research and a conclusion summarizing the major findings.
- The student should be the first author on the published or publishable works. The chair and committee members will likely be included as co-authors when the manuscript is submitted to a journal to represent their contribution to the submission
- If an article(s) is multi-authored, the student should clearly justify or clarify the contributions of the other authors in relationship to the research project. Authorship guidelines can be found in the APA manual. Students should be involved with every aspect of their dissertations.

The nature of the study and guidelines from the journal will dictate the formats and nature of each article. The TAD format may vary and should be discussed with your supervisory committee. While this list is not exhaustive, here are some examples of three TAD models:

1. Single Study Format

The dissertation is one study but with unique theoretical implications, adequate independent or dependent variables or sufficient data to support three articles. The flow of the TAD will vary with each study but consider the following flow.

- Introduction: This describes purpose and nature of each the three or more articles. If the articles do not allow for a comprehensive review of literature, the literature review can be included in this introduction.
- Article I: This article is a form of meta-analysis, a theoretical paper, or a finding from the study.
- Articles II & III: The remaining articles could represent findings and secondary analyses of all data collected during the single study.
- Summary: This concluding section includes a general discussion, conclusion, applications, and ideas for future research that comes from the three or more articles.

2. Independent Study Format

You may conduct three or more independent studies with different populations, variables, and measures. These studies should all be within your desired area of expertise. Each one can be reported independently.

- Introduction: This describes the purpose and nature of each article. If the articles don't allow for a comprehensive review of literature, the literature review can be included in this chapter.
- Article I: A complete article with an introduction, methods, results, and conclusions for Study A.
- Article II: A complete and independent article with an introduction, methods, results, and conclusions for Study B.
- Article III: A complete and independent article with an introduction, methods, results, and conclusions for Study C.
- Summary: Includes a general discussion, conclusion, applications, and ideas for future research that comes from the three studies.

3. Interdependent Studies Format

An interdependent format can be used in the case of progressive studies. The outcomes of part of a study must be determined before proceeding with the next portion of the study. There may be unanswered questions that could be determined with a third study.

- Introduction: Describes the purpose and progressive nature of each article. If the articles do not allow for a comprehensive review of literature, the literature review can be included in this chapter.
- Article I: Independent article with an introduction, methods, results, and conclusions for Study A.
- Article II: The study builds on Study A and lead into Study B. It is an independent article with an introduction, methods, results, and conclusions for Study B.
- Article III: This article would build upon studies A and B as an introduction to Study C.
- Summary: Includes a general discussion, conclusion, applications, and ideas for future research that is a direct result of studies A, B, and C.

Note: There may be graduate research studies that do not fit into the three article format. The student's graduate committee may determine that the traditional five chapter format is more appropriate.