

Article-based Thesis Doctoral Program

DESCRIPTION

The School of Social Work offers its students the option of pursuing an article-based thesis. The following policy describes this type of thesis, explains the approvals required when a student chooses to conduct an article based-thesis, and outlines the regulations that apply to an article-based thesis.

An article-based thesis comprises at least three articles or book chapters. It must meet the same intellectual standards and scientific rigour that a monograph thesis must meet, and must contribute to the advancement of knowledge. **The procedures for submitting, evaluating and defending an article-based thesis are the same as those for a monograph thesis.** Note that decisions on the quality of the articles or book chapters will be taken by the members of the thesis jury, not by those who evaluate the journals or books to which the articles or chapters have been submitted. Finally, as is the case for the monograph thesis, the article-based thesis will be archived in the University of Ottawa library.

PROCESS

1. As in the case of the monograph thesis, a student pursuing an article-based thesis must meet the prerequisites of the thesis (mandatory courses in the program, comprehensive examination and thesis proposal).
2. The student must obtain approval to pursue an article-based thesis. During the first month of enrollment in the thesis (SVS 9999), and after consulting with the thesis supervisor (and thesis co-supervisor, if applicable), the student must submit a one-page plan outlining the content of each of the articles or chapters to the supervisor of graduate programs. To this end, the student must fill out the [Approval to Pursue an Article-based Thesis](#) form. This form must be signed by the student, the thesis supervisor (and co-supervisor, if applicable), and the School's supervisor of graduate programs, and then submitted to the School's secretariat.
3. The student will then pursue the article-based thesis in accordance with the following regulations:
 - a. The article-based thesis must comprise at least three articles or book chapters ready for submission, approval or publication in peer-reviewed journals or books. Articles or chapters submitted for publication in non-peer-reviewed journals or books will not be accepted;

- b. The articles or chapters that form part of the thesis must not have been submitted before the thesis defence;
- c. Before submitting the articles or chapters, the student must ensure that the journal or book editors will allow the submitted texts to be included as part of a thesis;
- d. Only one article or chapter arising as a result of the comprehensive examination or the practicum is allowed;
- e. Articles or chapters submitted to a journal or publication that is edited or co-edited by the thesis supervisor (or co-supervisor, if applicable) will not be accepted;
- f. The student must be the sole author of at least two of the articles or chapters. The other text may be written by more than one author (including the thesis supervisor or co-supervisor if applicable), but the student must be the lead author, meaning that the student must have written most of the content and played the principle role in collecting and analysing the data and in editing the work (at least 50%). A description of the student's contributions to the work, and of the contributions of each co-author, must be submitted as an appendix. If they are not themselves among the co-authors of the article or book chapter, the thesis supervisor (and co-supervisor if applicable) must approve the co-authors of the work. If the thesis supervisor (or co-supervisor if applicable) is among the co-authors, the list of co-authors must be approved by a third party, namely the supervisor of graduate programs or the director of the School¹;
- g. Jury members (aside from the thesis supervisor and co-supervisor, if applicable) may not co-author any of the articles or chapters.
- h. The submitted thesis must contain the following elements:
 - i. An introductory chapter* that a) presents a general literature review; b) discusses general methodology issues; c) examines the theoretical framework(s) used; and d) explains the way in which each article or chapter contributes to the knowledge generated by the thesis;
 - ii. At least three articles or book chapters (specifying whether the articles or chapters have been submitted, accepted for publication, or published and, if applicable, an appendix detailing the student's contribution in the case of articles or chapters that have co-authors);
 - iii. A conclusion* that summarizes the main points and presents a general analysis
 - iv. A bibliography and appendices

*Note that the introduction and conclusion must fully highlight the cohesion of the thesis, namely the links between the various articles or chapters.

Policy approved by the departmental assembly of April 19, 2016.

¹ Hence, two cases are possible: a) the thesis supervisor or co-supervisor is also the supervisor of graduate programs, in which case the decision falls to the director of the School or b) the thesis supervisor or co-supervisor is also the director of the School, in which case the decision falls to the supervisor of graduate programs.