

## Graduate Thesis and Dissertation Abstracts

### Background

To better prepare students, the College of Graduate Studies reviewed and revised the instructions for creating a thesis or dissertation abstract. Many journals and other publications have specific abstract requirements, including word limits. Helping students shape a focused thesis or dissertation abstract will better prepare them for publication.

A more concise abstract using key words will ensure that UCF Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs) are more discoverable in the UCF STARS repository, as the abstract is one of primary drivers of internet searches to these documents.

Finally, these changes also reflect trends in thesis and dissertation practices nationwide.

### Details

- Implementing for the **Fall 2017** term
- This change has been reviewed and approved by the Graduate Policy Committee
- The abstract will be present in the final ETD PDF as well as used for cataloging purposes
- Student may include a separate “Extended Abstract” or “Summary” following the abstract, but there must be one single section titled “Abstract” that meets the following requirements

### New Thesis and Dissertation Abstract Requirements

The abstract page is required for all manuscripts. Its purpose is to briefly summarize:

What did you do?

Why did you do it?

How did you do it?

What did you find?

Why is your study useful, important, and unique?

Your abstract is limited to one paragraph of 300 words or less and should use the keywords that will help readers find your study through online search engines. It cannot contain formulas, equations, figures, references, footnotes, or special characters.

### Questions?

- Students should review **Module 2** of the [Thesis and Dissertation Webcourse](#) for additional details
- Information is also included in the UCF Thesis and Dissertation Manual (accessed in the TD Webcourse)
- Students will be reminded of this new requirement through email announcements, during the format review process, and also at final submission of their thesis or dissertation

Students, faculty, and staff can email the College of Graduate Studies Thesis and Dissertation staff at [editor@ucf.edu](mailto:editor@ucf.edu).