

Revised Dissertation Guideline

In order to produce quality dissertations, the following guideline identifies essential elements that must be included in all dissertations produced at Southern University. A minimum of five chapters is required- more is encouraged. Discipline formats will be respected as long as all the critical elements are included. The APA citation format is strongly recommended.

Chapter I: The Introduction

The introduction will comprised of the following:

- (a) The genesis of the problem, the past and the current situation.
- (b) The statement of the problem
- (c) **The logic model. The Logic model is simply a clean graphic presentation tool that provides the reader with a clean picture graphically/schematically of the problem, events and the order of sequence and relationships that will be considered in addressing the problem –thus providing an outline of the sequence of related events and steps. The schematic illustration provides a direct and visual connection with the problem, the relationships and the expected outcome. ****
- (d) The purpose of the study.
- (e) The research questions.

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework [This may be combined with appropriate chapter or Stand-alone]

The theoretical frame work and the theories that will guide the study are fully discussed. Students are expected to be familiar with and knowledgeable about the major theories in their disciplines.

Chapter III: The Literature Review

This section addresses the past, the current issues in the literature and the gaps that may exist. The issues and the gaps discussed usually provide rich fodder for developing the hypothesis in relation to the problem identified in the statement of the problem. It's very important that applicants demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the literature. The literature review is expected to be detailed and extensive. While there are no minimum number of pages required, a ten page literature review is however unacceptable.

Chapter IV: The Hypothesis/Methodology

Usually it's after the literature review that the hypothesis is developed and the variables identified. In this chapter, the method and the explanation of the model that may be used are stated. Depending on the method, if an equation/model is involved, the model is clearly stated followed with the model specification, and the operationalization of the variables in the hypothesis clearly stated. The method and the steps that will be involved must be clearly presented. If a survey is used the instrument is attached as an appendix.

**** This section is a must for all students and disciplines.**

Chapter V: Analysis, Results & Discussion

This Section may include the following:

- (a) Purpose of the study restated.
- (b) Hypotheses restated, the research questions must be answered.
- (c) Discussion of findings to support or refute the hypotheses including tables and figures.
- (d) Chapter summary

Chapter VI: Summary, Conclusions and Implications

This section may include the following:

- (a) The rationale of the study, purpose of the study, research questions and summary of data analysis.
- (b) Significance of the study and limitations. Now that the study has been conducted and analyzed this is the proper place to state the significance and the short comings.
- (c) Finally, discuss the implications & suggestions for future research.

APPENDIX

1. Appendices are not necessarily a part of every dissertation. An appendix is used for supplementary illustrative material, original data, computer printouts and other material which is not necessarily appropriate for inclusion in the text of the dissertation. Appendices must meet all margin requirements. The appendix section is separated from the preceding material by a cover sheet with the heading APPENDIX.

If there is only one appendix, it should be treated as a major division in the Table of Contents and in the appendix section. The heading APPENDIX (and title, if any) is listed in the Table of Contents as a major division heading. Within the appendix section, the heading APPENDIX is centered and typed two inches from the top of the first page. If the appendix has a title, it will be typed below the word APPENDIX, centered and in capital letters. (If there is not room for the appendix heading on the first page, the cover sheet will suffice.) If there are two or more appendices, each appendix is treated as a first order subdivision in the Table of Contents and in the appendices section. List each appendix heading (the word Appendix, the letter and if it has one, the title) in the Table of contents under the major heading APPENDICES. Within the appendices section, each appendix heading is centered on the first page of the individual appendix. If separate sheets are used to identify individual appendices, they are numbered and counted.

Appendix tables and figures must be numbered, have unique captions and be included in the List of Tables and List of Figures. The same rules apply to appendix table and figures as apply to tables and figures in the text.

2. The Vita is required for each dissertation. It is written in the third person and includes information about the student's academic career. The vita section is separated from preceding material by a cover sheet which is neither numbered nor counted. The heading VITA (in capital letters) is centered on the page without punctuation or underlining. The word VITA is repeated (centered) two inches from the top of the first page of the section. The vita is the last major division in the Table of Contents and in the dissertation unless followed by the "Approval for Scholarly Dissemination" document.