

BSD guidance on the dissertation document

All UChicago dissertations must adhere to the detailed instructions provided in the [University-Wide Requirements for the Ph.D. Dissertation](#).

In addition:

1. Every BSD thesis must include an abstract (to the whole dissertation) of up to 500 words (a length determined by Proquest).
2. The overarching organization of the thesis should typically be:
 - Table of Contents
 - List of Figures
 - Acknowledgments
 - Abstract
 - Introduction
 - Data Chapters
 - Discussion, which includes overarching conclusions in a broad framework – i.e. how the thesis work has altered and fits into the broader field – and future directions.
 - Bibliography
 - Appendices (as appropriate).
 - Detailed Methods may usefully be gathered in a separate chapter but may alternatively be components of the Data Chapters
3. Chapters that are collaborative works must include an attributions section, within the opening abstract/summary of the chapter, which clearly delineates the contributions of other individuals to the work. This should have enough detail that a reader will fully understand which aspects of the research were performed by the author of the dissertation. We note that in many cases these chapters will take the form of published or submitted co-authored works.
4. BSD's position is that there is no expectation of rewriting published or submitted works, although sufficient framing should be provided to ensure they integrate appropriately into the thesis. The necessary framing may be provided in an extended summary or abstract, included within the body of the chapter text, or both. The previously published work must be fully cited. Most journals do not have restrictions on allowing parts (or all of) previously published works to appear within a thesis that will be placed on Proquest. However, we strongly recommend that all BSD students refer to the detailed information available from the University of Chicago dissertation office (<https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/research/scholar/phd/>), and plan to attend workshops offered by its expert staff in advance of the quarter in which they defend.