

Undergraduate Thesis Requirements

WRT 465

Description of the Work

A. The undergraduate writing thesis should be a unified work of about 40 pages or the equivalent. For example:

- a long story
- part of a novel with outline
- a collection of poems unified under a theme
- a short play
- a short screenplay
- a journalistic project
- a public relations campaign
- a business plan or other business writing
- a lesson plan unit or study regarding primary or secondary teaching

These are ONLY examples, not prompts for your particular project. The thesis project must be discussed and approved with the instructor of WRT 465 early in the thesis semester.

B. The project must be related to the option the student has pursued in the Department, i.e. creative writing, business writing, the teaching of writing, etc.

C. The project must be approved in advance and completed in polished form in order for the student to pass the course.

Essential Elements of the Thesis Project

A. An *abstract* of 50-100 words describing the project in third person. For example, "This project is the first three chapters and an outline of a novel entitled XXX. The novel describes the coming of age..." OR "This collection of long feature articles profiling a community through its leaders and activists." OR "This study examines the anecdotal reports of teachers and principals in the effects of the No Child Left Behind act on the classroom environment." ETC. The abstract should be a well-written, evocative presentation of your subject.

B. A *table of contents* or *chapter outline*, whichever is appropriate.

C. The *body* of the project with sections or divisions clearly marked.

D. A *works cited list*, where appropriate.

E. Note: Projects that involve non written elements (e.g., video) or hypertext formats should have a form appropriate to the genre and approved by the instructor of WRT 465.

Format for Written Material of the Thesis

A. A title page having the following form:

Title of Work

By Your Name

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for a
Degree in Writing

Name of Option

Submission Date

Instructor WRT 465/Thesis Advisor: Prof. XXX

B. The title page should be followed by: The abstract, the body of the work, the works cited, in that order.

C. All pages should be numbered sequentially, the numbers centered on the bottom of the page.

D. Font, spacing and margins: Times 12 point, double spaced, unless the nature of the project requires different formatting. Page margins should be 1 ½ inches all around, either ragged right or justified, unless special formatting is required.

E. Style: The stylebook will depend on the option. For example, Teaching of Writing option students should use the MLA style, Journalism and Freelance Option students should use the AP stylebook.

F. Copies and archiving:

1. Two hard copies of complete thesis.

Hard copies should each be in a manila folder held in place with a spring clip.

2. One electronic pdf. copy uploaded to the archival site according the provided instructions.

3. Students who intend to submit their theses to publishers or agents and who are concerned that the D-space archive may be considered a 'publication,' have an alternative. These students should prepare a short abstract, as described above, plus a

three to 10 page synopsis or description of the work such as might be part of a proposal to a publishing house or agent.

Note: A thesis not in the proper form will be returned to the student for correction and will not be accepted until the corrections are made.