



KALMANOVITZ  
SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION

# **GUIDELINES**

## **FOR THE**

# **SYNTHESIS PROJECT**

**2019- 2020**

(revised September 4, 2019)

Includes guidelines for submitting theses to ProQuest

Based on APA Publication Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010

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***Note: The information, including formatting instructions, in these Guidelines supersedes any instructions given in previous versions of the Guidelines.***

## INTRODUCTION

Theses (including action research projects), synthesis projects, and counseling master's projects are the culminating activities that integrate the knowledge and skills acquired during the master's degree program of study. The work submitted for a master's degree is expected to reflect the graduate student's highest level of scholarship and adherence to the technical details of the format and style set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA).

The Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's College of California offers two types of master's degrees: the Master of Arts (M.A.) and the Master of Education (M.Ed.). To fulfill the requirements for the degree that the graduate student has selected, a thesis, synthesis project, counseling master's project, or action research project must be completed and approved.

Theses (including action research projects), synthesis projects, and counseling master's projects must be written following the most current *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) guidelines, *APA Publication Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010*.

The purpose of this book is to provide general guidelines for the completion of the culminating activity with a specific focus on the **synthesis project**.

## SYNTHESIS PROJECT

A **synthesis project** is a thorough study of a specific topic that results in a written synthesis of the literature and an integration of the information into a program, application, or product that addresses the identified issue or need. It evidences originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, and thorough documentation. It has a rationale, objectives, thorough review and synthesis of the literature, methodology, findings, conclusions, discussion, and recommendations. In some cases the program or product is implemented, evaluated, and modified. In other cases, experts in the field review the program or product and their feedback is incorporated into the culminating project. In some programs, an oral defense or presentation of the project is required. This project is sometimes intended for practical application. It may be used in the future as a foundation for writing a grant or a program proposal. The synthesis project is a visible and permanent record of the quality of work that a graduate student has accomplished at Saint Mary's College.

Once the research and other literature for the **synthesis project** topic are studied, it is synthesized into a culminating paper that includes a theoretical rationale supporting the focus of the study, a review of the literature, and an application of this material to the community school, relational or clinical issue, results, and discussion. The application may be a well-designed and feasible curriculum guide, prevention model, assessment, development of a school-family based program, handbook or training guide (printed, audio or video tapes). The paper culminates with a discussion about the project as a whole, including any limitations and suggestions for additional applications and research.

## **PLANNING THE RESEARCH COMPONENT**

It is important that you carefully plan the sequence of courses and requirements as you approach the final stages of your graduate work. Advanced planning helps to insure that the necessary requirements for enrolling in the research courses have been completed, that you will not be overly delayed in completing the synthesis project, and that you receive your degree as planned.

The courses that comprise the research component of the master's degree programs are as follows:

### **Research Seminar I (EDUC 572) — 3 units**

Research Seminar I includes an examination of the process of educational and counseling research, types of research design, critical evaluation of research studies and measurement techniques, and understanding of relevant statistical concepts. During this course students define their area of interest for the project and narrow the specific focus with help from an advisor and/or faculty member who may become a reader or chair for their work. The research topic must be approved by the Program Director as well as the chair and reader. Graduate students demonstrate and apply their knowledge of research designs by drafting the first chapter of their project, which includes the statement of the problem, research question(s), basic assumptions, and definition of terms. In addition, initial drafts of the theoretical rationale and research design or plan for the project are completed in first versions of Chapters II and III. During this course students arrange for a project chair and reader with their Program Director and/or advisor. By the conclusion of this course students should have their chair.

### **Research Seminar II (EDUC 582) — 3 units**

This course provides a practicum to continue with the preparation of the research proposal for the graduate student's synthesis project. The topic must be approved by the Program Director, chair, and reader before beginning this course. The student continues to extend and revise the draft of Chapter I, develops a comprehensive literature review for Chapter II, and writes a methodology for Chapter III. The student formulates a statement of the problem, research questions, basic assumptions, definition of terms, and a research design or plan. Hands-on instruction is provided on how to carry out quantitative and qualitative data analysis and on how to synthesize existing research. Students receive feedback on their drafts from both their instructor and their committee chair. (Prerequisite: A grade of B- or better in EDUC 572.)

### **Synthesis Project (EDUC 597) — 3 units**

The synthesis project is completed on an individual basis with your chair and reader, who serve as your committee after completing the research course(s).

The first semester you register for this course you must register for and pay for the full 3-unit tuition. You must register for EDUC 592-01 the first semester you take this course.

If the work is not completed in the term in which you have first enrolled in this course, you must take an "In-Progress" (IP) grade and enroll in Thesis-In-Progress (EDUC 592-IP) each Fall and Spring Semester until the thesis is completed. The "In-Progress" status is necessary so that you may continue to confer with your chair and reader(s) and continue to have use of the library facilities. A fee is assessed for the "In-Progress" status each semester.

### **Time Limit for the Master's Degree**

The maximum completion time allowed for a master's degree is five (5) years. The time limit for completion of the synthesis project is two (2) years after completing the EDUC 572 Research Seminar I course. If you do not finish within two years, you must repeat EDUC 582.

### **CANDIDACY FOR DEGREE**

During the term in which you expect to finish all of your degree requirements, including your synthesis project, you need to complete a Graduate Commencement Registration Form **by the deadline for the term in which you are graduating which is posted on the KSOE website** and file it in the KSOE office. The mandatory graduate commencement and degree processing fee must also be paid at that time.

In addition, once your degree work is fully completed you will need to submit the Degree Verification and ProQuest Approval Form. This form can also be found on the KSOE website. There is no deadline for this form, but you must submit it in order for your degree to be processed. Therefore, the sooner after completion of your degree requirements you submit the form, the sooner your degree will be processed.

## **ADVISORS**

There are various levels and types of support provided for you, as a master's degree candidate, throughout the program.

- A Program Director or admissions intake counselor of a particular master's degree program is usually your initial contact person for entrance into the master's degree program. This person may continue to advise in other roles as well, such as being your advisor or the chair of your project advisory committee.
- If your master's degree is built upon a credential or certificate from Saint Mary's College, the advisor (Program Director or faculty member) who guided you through that coursework may continue to be your advisor in the master's degree program.
- If you did not complete a credential or certificate program at Saint Mary's College, an advisor will be assigned to you when you are admitted to the master's degree program.
- The master's degree Program Directors are responsible for general organizational issues and policies and may be contacted at any point in the program for assistance.

## TIMELINE CHECKLIST

<i>Student's Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>STEPS</b>
_____ 1.	<u>Discuss Possible Topics with Several Faculty Members.</u> Explore topics with your advisor and other department faculty early in the program. Identify mutual research interests and the availability of faculty to be on your committee. If you do not have any ideas, talk with one of the faculty in your department.
_____ 2.	<u>Consult your Program Director or Advisor Regarding your Synthesis Project Committee.</u> Once you have decided on your topic, your advisor or Program Director will help you select a synthesis project chairperson. This chairperson will be the primary mentor for your study. Your chair may be any full-time faculty member at Saint Mary's College and should have expertise in the subject or issue you plan to investigate. Consult with your chair about the selection of your reader, who is the second member of your committee. Your advisory committee must have at least two faculty members, at least one of whom should be a full-time member in your program or school. Some faculty may request the submission of a written proposal (Step 6) prior to making any commitments. Fill out the <b>Initial Chair and Reader Approval Sheet</b> in Appendix A and obtain the signatures of your chair and reader(s) and the Program Director on the form. Make a copy of the form for the committee members and your Program Director. This form should be submitted to the instructor of EDUC 572 or MATS 530. Be sure to make copies of your Timeline Checklist for each member of your committee.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Take Research Courses. Consult with your advisor early in the program as to when you should take these courses.

You should become familiar with the *Publication Manual of the American Psychology Association (APA)*, *APA Publication Manual (6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010)*. Every chapter has information on how to write correctly and professionally.

Synthesis Project students are required to take Research Seminar I (EDUC 572), and Research Seminar II (EDUC 582) prior to the commencement of their research. See the course descriptions in the most recent *Kalmanovitz School of Education Catalog of Courses*.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Select Your Topic. With the guidance of your committee chair and other members, select a specific topic to study.

Synthesis Project Students. Address a specific issue (need, problem, concern, diagnosis, etc.) and propose an approach to this issue after a review of the literature.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Review the Research Literature, Finalize Your Purpose and/or Problem (Issue), and Write Your Proposal.

Synthesis Project Students. Your proposal consists of the first three chapters of your project, as follows: Chapters I: Introduction, Chapter II: Literature Review and III: Methods. Your proposal should be a full draft of these chapters, providing the background and rationale for your synthesis project, reviewing the relevant research and theory, and specifying the methods you will use to create and evaluate your project.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Complete the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process (if needed). This step is for those who plan to do research with human subjects. Discuss this process with your chair. You must submit your plans to the Saint Mary's College IRB Committee. The Committee will assess and affirm the ethical and legal use of human participants in your study. You will also need to complete the CITI training. More information about CITI training can be found on the SMC IRB website: <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/institutional-review-board>

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Reserve an Editor and/or Statistician. You may need to hire an editor who is familiar with APA style to assist with your writing. It is not the responsibility of your chair or committee member(s) to edit your paper. You may decide that you would like to consult with a statistician about the results of your evaluation. Please refer to Appendix B for recommended editors and statisticians. Appendix B also includes a list of writing tutors you may hire to assist with grammar and composition (but not APA style).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Acquire Any Needed Copyright Clearances. Your chair (and duplicating services) can assist you in obtaining copyright clearances for materials used, if necessary. (If you quote more than one paragraph from another author or if you duplicate a copyrighted text or questionnaire for your research, you will need to obtain written permission to copy this material from the publisher or person holding the copyright.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Formal Approval of Proposal by Committee. After completing your proposal (usually after finishing EDUC 582), submit it to your chair and reader for approval.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Register for EDUC 597-01 (Synthesis Project). Register for this course. **Do not begin your research until you have met with your committee members and been given their approval.** **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you do not finish that semester, you need to register for EDUC 597 IP (In Progress) each additional semester until you complete your work. (This includes Summer and January Terms only if you plan to finish during one of those terms.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Begin your Synthesis Project. Carry out the plans you specified in your proposal, with guidance from your chair and committee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Apply for Graduation. Once you have completed your study or project and are close to a final draft, complete the Graduate Commencement Registration Form which can be found on the KSOE website. Fill out the form completely and submit it along with the required materials by the deadline posted on the KSOE website for that term to the KSOE front desk. The mandatory graduate commencement and degree processing fee must also be paid at that time.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Complete Your Final Chapters.

Synthesis Project Students. Write up Chapter IV (Results) and Chapter V (Discussion), following APA conventions for formatting the manuscript. Edit drafts. Consult with your chair and/or statistical advisor about the organization and sequence of tables and/or figures in which you will display your results.

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Submit the Complete Project to Your Committee. Include the Abstract, Table of Contents, Tables or Figures, References, Appendices and any other material that will be in your final document. After your chair has approved your entire synthesis project, make copies for each of your committee members. Consult with your committee members in advance to ascertain how much time they need to review your synthesis project. **Most faculty require a *minimum* of four weeks to read your final draft. Allow yourself additional time to make final changes based on their recommendations and final consultations with your chair.**

Revise and resubmit your synthesis project to your chair and committee members as is necessary until final approval has been obtained. Send the final draft to the editor to ensure APA style is correct throughout.

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Once your chair and reader approve your thesis and you have uploaded the document to ProQuest, you must have the signature page signed by your committee. The signature page (with your signature) should be submitted to the front desk for processing and routing. You will receive a pdf copy of the signed signature page once it has been signed by the committee via email.

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Submit your project to ProQuest (see pp. 69-70 for directions). You will need to embed the fonts and make your paper into a PDF; directions for how to do these steps are on the ProQuest website. Please note that there are no actual signatures on the signature page submitted to ProQuest.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. You may order copies of your synthesis project for yourself through ProQuest; the various options and costs are detailed on the website. You may also have bound copies made for yourself by a bindery of your choice.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Once your degree work is fully completed you will need to submit the Degree Verification and ProQuest Approval Form. This form can also be found on the KSOE website. There is no deadline for this form, but you must submit it in order for your degree to be processed. Therefore, the sooner after completion of your degree requirements you submit the form, the sooner your degree will be processed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Graduate and Celebrate!!!

## PRELIMINARY STRATEGIES

1. Start an ongoing list of topics and ideas that intrigue you, unanswered questions, and areas of need in your professional field. Keep an ongoing list in a file that also includes pertinent references, lecture notes, contacts, and resources.
2. When you are able to focus on a topic of interest, use that topic, whenever possible, for class assignments. In this way, you can begin to build your reference file, explore the literature, and formulate your thoughts. Also, you will receive valuable feedback from the professors of your classes.
3. Early evaluation of your formal writing skill is important. If you feel inadequate in this area, seek help by enrolling in a writing class, start using writing guidebooks, use a tutor, and consult with professors. You may also obtain writing help and support through the Center for Writing Across the Curriculum (CWAC) which offers free writing advising to all students. CWAC is located on the first floor of De La Salle Hall (next to Hagerty Lounge). There are two options for students of all disciplines and levels:

*Writing Circles:* During weekly, small-group workshops, students discuss their own writing projects, theses, or dissertations. To join a Circle, students visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles) before or during the first week of the semester, as Circles begin meeting week two. Once scheduled into a Circle time, students register for that section of EDUC 502/504.

*One-on-one sessions:* Students make appointments or drop in 4-8 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; and 12-4 p.m. Friday. Alternate hours and online sessions are also available. Contact information is: [925.631.4684](tel:925.631.4684) or on the web at: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac). Writing Advisers guide their peers toward expressing ideas clearly, always weighing audience and purpose. Writers bring their theses, dissertations, or course materials in order to brainstorm ideas, revise drafts, or work on specific aspects of writing, such as grammar, citation, organization, or research methods.

4. Be aware that the style of writing for a synthesis project is formal: clear, concise, non-biased, straight forward, and non-creative. This style may take some practice, especially if you have been used to writing creatively and personally. Learn APA Style and use it in writing your assigned papers for your classes in order to increase your proficiency with it.
5. Become familiar with the campus library and the systems for locating reference materials. Seek assistance from the reference librarians in the SMC Library.

## SELECTING YOUR TOPIC

1. Choose an area in which you have a strong and sustained interest - a passion, personal investment, or determined commitment. When the outcome is important to you, it is easier to stay motivated and persevere during some of the difficult phases.
2. Take the earliest opportunity to do some reading in several areas of interest. If you are having a difficult time selecting a researchable topic, consider some of these sources:
  - Recent journal articles are an excellent way to identify topics of current interest in your field.
  - You may also have a specific need for materials as a result of your work in the field that would make a good topic for a synthesis project.
  - Project needs can also come from practitioners who are on the frontlines and most immediately in touch with educational and clinical issues.
  - Meet the faculty who are teaching in the area of your interest and ask for resources.
3. There are several factors to keep in mind when selecting a topic:
  - Is it a realistic project for the allotted time frame?
  - Are there funding possibilities?
  - Will a project on this topic advance your professional development and/or career goals?
  - Do you have access to an appropriate population?
  - Do you have access to necessary resources?
  - Will a study on this topic fulfill the purposes of a synthesis project: (a) allow you to demonstrate your ability to develop a product, and (b) make a contribution to knowledge that can then be documented and disseminated?
4. Choosing your topic, narrowing your focus to a manageable problem, and developing the project purpose are often difficult tasks. Close work with your advisor or committee on this component is a key to success.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

A review of the literature is a thorough synthesis of published theoretical positions and research studies relevant to the topic selected for the synthesis project.

If you pick a broad topic, you will find too much information and need to narrow your scope. If the topic is too narrow, you may find few studies and need to incorporate related materials. For example, "Reading" is a topic about which thousands of books and tens of thousands of research articles have been written. In addition, there are many theoretical positions that need to be considered when reviewing the literature. It is clear that the topic of reading is too broad and, therefore, the topic needs to be narrowed. Conversely, a topic such as "Effects of Sensory-Motor Integration on Reading Achievement" may prove to be too narrow during the search of the literature to enable a comprehensive view of the underlying knowledge base in the area being investigated.

The research coursework provides guidance for your literature search and narrowing of your topic. However, whatever preliminary study you can do in your area of interest prior to enrollment in the course will significantly enhance your progress.

A student usually considers several possible topics prior to selecting a final topic and formulating a project purpose. Sometimes it is difficult to come up with a specific idea for a project topic. For any possible project topic, there is normally a wealth of associated literature. The leap from topic and problem to project purpose normally requires an extended period of time spent reviewing the relevant research literature. It is likely that first attempts at formulating a project purpose might be revised given the findings of the literature you review.

While every step in the research process is important, an organized and thorough review of the literature is essential in determining the ultimate success or failure of the project. A complete review provides the foundation for the entire project. The literature search gives the project developer the perspective to see what has already been done, how it was done, what was discovered, and what is needed next.

Your review of the literature on your selected topic provides a rationale and historical context for your project application. Organize your review with sub-headings that follow a logical outline that supports your project purpose. Begin with a general introduction and move toward the specifics; explore the historical (older) material and progress to the recent developments. Cite numerous supportive papers and studies, but only review the studies and theoretical papers that are directly relevant to your particular project purpose, issue, and proposed application.

- Discuss older research/literature first, then the more recent.
- Organized into sections.
- Related to the project purpose.

In addition to an overview and organized presentation of the literature on your topic, this review section usually includes a rigorous summary and critique of key studies pertinent to your paper. Written in one or two paragraphs, summaries of key research studies include information about the following:

- Participants: How many and who? What age or ethnicity (if relevant)?
- Measurements: What? Standardized? Novel?
- Procedures: How?
- Results: Main findings. Researcher's interpretation of the findings; any noteworthy limitations or applications to your study.
- Critique: Your evaluation of the study and significance of the results (internal and external validity, generalizability, credible findings and interpretations, etc.).

In the review of the literature you establish the need for your synthesis project. You know when you have completed your literature review because sources begin to repeat themselves.

## Sources for Your Literature Review

A literature review reports research findings, not textbook excerpts, general magazine articles, or opinion pieces. There are generally several types of sources that must be consulted to produce a well-documented literature review.

1. **General Sources:** These provide information on the location of references. Included in this category are the periodic volumes that abstract the research literature by author and subject area in a variety of fields (e.g., *Current Index on Journals in Education*, *Exceptional Child Abstracts*, *Psychological Abstracts*, *the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*). One useful source is *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*, which is the annual national demographic book.
2. **Secondary Sources:** These include scholarly summaries in the form of meta-analyses and syntheses of previous research. For example, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) publishes the *Review of Educational Research*, which presents research summaries written by experts in their respective fields. Other excellent sources are: *The Handbook on Research on Teaching*, *the Encyclopedia of Educational Research*, and the *National Society for the Study of Education Yearbook*.
3. **Primary Sources:** These are accounts of actual research studies as reported in professional journals or in compilations of abstracts of student research (e.g., Dissertation Abstracts). Peer reviewed research journals are the most valuable source of information about the latest research published in a particular area. For example, some of the top publications in special education include: *Academic Therapy*, *American Annals of the Deaf*, *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*, *Education of the Visually Handicapped*, *Exceptional Children*, *Gifted Child Quarterly*, *Journal of the Association for the Severely Handicapped*, *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, *Journal of Special Education*, and the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research*.

The SMC Library has an extensive list of its journals in the Reference Room. If the Library does not have the journal you need, ask the reference librarian for assistance with **Link-Plus** and the **inter-library loan system**. Most articles, dissertations and some theses are available. In addition, some 'full text' articles are available online through the Saint Mary's Library web site.

4. **Other Resources:** Sometimes in order to fully review the literature on your topic, you need to be a detective and investigate less accessible sources of information. These sources might



include unpublished reports, conference papers, government monographs, and personal communications with other researchers in the field.

### **Using the Computer for Literature Searches**

Most university libraries offer incredible resources for accessing information through the use of online computer reference searches. There are obvious advantages to online searches. For instance, ERIC documents can be downloaded or sent to your email address in full text. Using descriptor terms associated with the topic being searched, citation and abstract information can be listed on the computer screen and/or printed out.

Another advantage is the thoroughness of the online system. The information is both current and very complete in providing access to tens of thousands of documents. Most university libraries provide access to a variety of databases free of charge to enrolled students. Reference librarians can easily explain the fundamentals of the system in a few minutes.

Web sites (unless they are online versions of printed journals or peer reviewed online journals) are not authoritative sources. Therefore, they should not be relied upon as a source for research information, definitions, or tests. They may be used to illustrate a point or give an example of a phenomenon.

## CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING A RESEARCH STUDY

Questions to ask yourself about the research studies you will be reading in preparation for your synthesis project:

Review of the literature:

1. Is the review recent?
2. Is the literature reviewed relevant?
3. Are there outstanding references you know of that were left out?

Problem and the purpose:

1. Is the statement of the problem clear?
2. Is the purpose of the study stated clearly?
3. Is there a theoretical rationale in which the hypotheses/research questions are grounded?
4. Is there a rationale for why the study was an important one to do?

Hypothesis/research question:

1. Are the hypotheses/research questions clearly stated?
2. Are the hypotheses testable?
3. Is the predicted relationship among the variables clear?

Method:

1. Are both the independent and dependent variables clearly defined?
2. Is the methodology (how the study was conducted) clear?

Sample:

1. Was the sample selected in such a way as to be representative of the population?
2. How was the sample selected?

Results and discussion:

1. Are the findings related back to studies discussed in the review of the literature?
2. Are the results related to hypothesis/research question?
3. Is the discussion of the results consistent with the results?

General features of the report:

1. Is it clearly written and understandable?
2. Is the language biased?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the report?

## GETTING READY TO WRITE

The process of moving from an idea to a well-defined and complete synthesis project is sometimes a difficult experience. What students find particularly frustrating is that there is as much rewriting as writing. Below are some things you can do to expedite this process.

1. All students start with a project that is too large. Narrow the scope. Ask your chair for assistance in narrowing down your research study.
2. Find other graduate students at the same point in the process and form a support group. In addition to getting moral support and encouragement, you can also ask them to look at your writing during its development and give you feedback on content, format, and writing style.
3. Good self-discipline reduces the amount of time needed. If you are not an organized person who can work independently without supervision, then you have to alter your behavior at least temporarily—accurate and complete records need to be maintained, which include a coding/filing system and log of materials read. In addition, it helps if you plan your daily and weekly work in advance by establishing tasks for the week and setting aside times when you will work on the project.
4. Set up a system to expedite your advisor's response time. Schedule regular appointments with your advisor. Provide your chair with all work you have completed (and any prior drafts, if you are rewriting) several days before the meeting with a note asking your advisor to return your work with comments at the meeting. If any of the writing/rewriting process is being done through the mail, include a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of materials.
5. Set up your own timeline for completion of the different parts of your project. Allot an amount of time for the initial literature review (you will continue to review the literature throughout the synthesis project process), design of the project, evaluation of the project, data analysis of evaluation results, editing and revising the project, writing up the results, and proofreading, rewriting and editing.
6. Remember that all graduate students get discouraged at times, but try not to let it interrupt your progress. Schedule activities that are personally rewarding, use your support group, and talk to your advisor who probably had his or her own days of frustration doing research.
7. As you write your document, you may find some of these ideas helpful:

Your writing style needs to be:

- Written in the first or third person.
- Clear and concise (yet often redundant).
- Non-biased (avoid editorializing and judgments).
- Adequately and appropriately cited.
- Straight forward (non-creative).

If this writing style is difficult for you, the following suggestions might help:

- Check out synthesis projects from the library that are well written. Study the style and format.
- Use one or more writing reference guides.
- From the guides, make up a simple checklist to follow.
- Exchange papers with a fellow student and proofread each other's work.
- Keep your growing list of resources and references in an organized system such as a data base or using file cards, or use the system specified by your instructor (for example, a Research Study File).
- Purchase the most current *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA Manual), (*APA Publication Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010*) in the bookstore and use the APA format for reference material (e.g., author, year, title). This saves time later on when you list these in the reference section of your paper. APA Style software is also available for purchase.
- Research of the literature should be intriguing but will undoubtedly be time consuming. Set aside large segments of time for library work, some of which can now be completed at home by using the Saint Mary's College library web site. If you feel a source is a useful one, make a copy. It is particularly frustrating to find you don't have the reference information needed once you are writing.
- You may also obtain writing help and support through the Center for Writing Across the Curriculum (CWAC) which offers free writing advising to all students. CWAC is located on the first floor of De La Salle Hall (next to Hagerty Lounge). There are two options for students of all disciplines and levels:

*Writing Circles:* During weekly, small-group workshops, students discuss their own writing projects, theses, or dissertations. To join a Circle, students visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles) before or during the first week of the semester, as Circles begin meeting week two. Once scheduled into a Circle time, students register for that section of EDUC 502/504.

*One-on-one sessions:* Students make appointments or drop in 4-8 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; and 12-4 p.m. Friday. Alternate hours and online sessions are also available. Contact information is: [925.631.4684](tel:925.631.4684) or on the web at: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac). Writing Advisers guide their peers toward expressing ideas clearly, always weighing audience and purpose. Writers bring their theses, dissertations, or course materials in order to brainstorm ideas, revise drafts, or work on specific aspects of writing, such as grammar, citation, organization, or research methods.

- Reference lists at the end of significant periodical articles may be valuable sources of information. They are usually current and related to the article's topic.
- Make timelines for yourself, revise as necessary, but commit to meeting them. Make a long range, general timeline and a specific, detailed, weekly timeline.
- Purdue University offers an Online Writing Lab to assist you with APA Style and to provide other writing resources. The lab can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

## **WRITING THE PROPOSAL: SYNTHESIS PROJECT**

The written proposal is your plan for the synthesis project. It consists of Chapters I, II and III of your synthesis project. Course instructors will assist students in the format, style and technical aspects of writing the proposal, but ongoing consultation with your chair is essential. It is your chair and reader who must approve of and sign your proposal. The more complete and carefully planned the proposal, the more likelihood of a successful project.

### **The Format**

The following outline is suggested for a project proposal. For more information about what should be in each section, see pages 27-30. Adaptations would be needed for descriptive, historical, or case study type of synthesis project. You may want to use the “Mini Proposal” in Appendix C as a guide before you write your proposal. Please consult your chair to verify that this outline is appropriate for your project proposal.

### **Synthesis Project Proposal**

Title Page

Chapter I Introduction

Introduction

Statement of the Problem [including background and significance of the project]

Purpose of the Project

Limitations

Assumptions

Operational Definition of Terms

Implications

Chapter II Literature Review

Introduction [review purpose and research question(s)]

Overview of Literature Review

Theoretical Rationale

Review of Related Research

Conclusions

Chapter III Method

Introduction [review purpose of project]

Setting

Participants

Procedure

- Design of Project

- Evaluation of Project

Analysis of Findings

References

## FURTHER GUIDELINES

The synthesis project should succinctly describe the problem to be investigated; the project design; evaluation procedures to be used; a rationale or theoretical framework; a plan for review of the literature; procedures for protection of human subjects, when appropriate; and the probable contribution to the field. All work submitted for review should reflect not only your scholarship but also your concern for the technical details of format and style.

1. The statement of the problem and purpose should both justify and explain your project. It should make a persuasive case that the project needs to be done and that the project should be completed in the manner that you propose.
2. All parts must be logically coherent. If you are doing a synthesis project, the statement of the problem should connect to findings summarized in the review of the literature; the purpose of the project must follow logically from the statement of the problem; the method and procedure must be appropriate to design and evaluate the project; and the evaluation must be adequate to yield useful information.
3. Use operational definitions. In the design of the project, readers check to see if the proposed operational steps are appropriate to carry out the project successfully.
4. The proposal should be thorough, assuming no knowledge on the part of the reader.
5. The project design and the evaluation procedures should be stated with a degree of specificity that allows the proposal to be replicated exactly.
6. Discuss strengths and weaknesses of the project design and evaluation procedures.
7. Explain how the findings of the evaluation will be interpreted and how they relate to the project purpose.
8. Learn and use the citation and organization style recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA), *APA Publication Manual, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010*. This is your responsibility.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

To assist in developing your synthesis project, a faculty chairperson and a faculty reader are necessary to guide you throughout the process, beginning when you have decided on the general area of your study or project. At least one member of your committee should be a full-time faculty member in your program or the School of Education. Contact your Program Director or advisor to assist in selecting a chair and reader. Your EDUC 572 instructor will also assist you in this process. The ideal chair is both interested in your topic and competent to supervise the development of that topic into an acceptable study/project proposal. It also helps if you feel that your chair cares about your personal and professional development.

1. A chair must be willing to read succeeding drafts of the proposal during the development stage, make comments, and return the drafts to you promptly (**expect a minimum of two weeks for a chapter**) so that you can continue to move forward.
2. A chair must also be willing and able to protect you from unreasonable demands made by other committee members.
3. Ideally, your chair has had previous experience with the topic project evaluation procedures.
4. Readers should be compatible with your chair and with each other.
5. Ideally, committee members are selected because of the potential benefits they can bring to your project (e.g., statistical expertise, familiarity with the literature, editorial board membership of a journal in which you hope to someday publish your findings).
6. When considering a chair and committee members, try to find out about upcoming sabbatical leaves or any other circumstances that might affect members' availability.
7. If a chair or reader declines, try to not take it personally. The faculty members have many responsibilities (e.g., teaching, administrative, committees). You want a chair and reader who have the time to support you.
8. Should you have particular difficulty working with either your chair or a committee member (e.g., he or she does not read, comment on, or return chapter drafts within two weeks) then:
  - (a) Send notice in advance that materials are being sent to be read;
  - (b) Schedule regular appointments and ask at those meetings for a firm commitment as to a date on which your materials will be read and returned to you; and
  - (c) Keep working.

If the difficulties continue, you may contact your Program Director or the Coordinator of Master's Programs to discuss changing your chairperson.

9. Once the chair and readers(s) have agreed to work with you, have them sign the “Initial Chair and Reader Approval Sheet” (Appendix A) and submit a copy to your EDUC 572 instructor. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.



# **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAIRS AND READERS**

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR CHAIR**

- Provides ongoing support for you throughout the entire synthesis project development, implementation, and writing process.
  - This support will include:
    - Suggestions of resources and names of significant researchers in the field of study.
    - The establishment of a Master’s Workflow Contract (see Appendix B) between the student, chair, and reader
    - The identification of goals and objectives for thesis completion each term you are enrolled
    - The development of a timeline to finish your project
    - Regular communication either in person or online (as specified in your Master’s Workflow Contract)
- Reviews drafts of each chapter first and then indicates when the draft is ready to be sent to the reader. Your chair provides both positive and constructive feedback.
  - You, your chair, and your reader are a team. Best practices in the review by chairs include:
    - Chair is responsible for overseeing the process of reviewing drafts
    - In the typical sequence the following steps are followed:
      - 1) Chair reviews drafts first and provides feedback to student
      - 2) Student incorporates feedback from the Chair
      - 3) Chair gives the ok to send the draft to the reader
      - 4) The student sends the draft to the reader and copies the chair
      - 5) The reader sends feedback to the student and copies the chair
      - 6) The student incorporates feedback from the reader
      - 7) The student sends the revised draft to the chair
- Handles any differences of opinion or conflicts between you and the reader.
- Oversees finalization of the synthesis project document
  - Reviews final draft and provides positive, constructive feedback
  - Chair approves document and APA formatting, signs signature page, and gives to front desk

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR READER**

- The reader should read the synthesis project at three time points:
  - Completion of Chapter I
  - Completion of Chapters I, II & III (proposal)
  - Completion of Chapters I, II, III, IV, & V (complete draft of thesis)
- Provides suggestions of sources and significant researchers for the candidate to read.
- Reviews final draft and provides positive, constructive feedback.
- After approval by Chair, signs the signature page indicating final approval of the document.
- Reader notifies Chair of approval of the document.
- Maintains communication with Chair regarding the document

## MEETING WITH YOUR COMMITTEE

1. Once you have defined your topic, meet with faculty who have expertise in your topic as early in the program as possible. Have them help you define your topic further. Ask for names of key researchers in the field as well as other resources.
2. Schedule meetings with committee members as needed. Graduate students have different styles of working. If you work best with deadlines, schedule appointments approximately every three weeks with your chair. You can cancel them if necessary, but these meetings will help you stay on task. Be sure to send your chair the next draft at least two weeks ahead of your meeting so you have something concrete to discuss when meeting in person. Check with your committee members about whether they prefer to receive your drafts in hard-copy or via e-mail. **Always include the previous draft with the updated, revised edition.**
3. Your chair will read your synthesis project and return it to you with comments at the time of the meeting.
4. The scholarly dialogue that occurs between you and your committee members facilitates the professional growth of everyone. Don't hesitate to disagree with your committee members on substantive issues if you have a rationale to support your point of view.
5. Be sure to take careful notes or tape record during these meetings to help you remember what was said and what you need to do next.
6. If your chair and reader disagree, tell your chair that "there seems to be a difference of opinion. Will you please work with the reader to resolve it and let me know the outcome?" Don't get caught in the middle of the conflict.

## **APPROVAL OF YOUR STUDY BY THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)**

If you plan on using humans as participants in your project, you must obtain written approval of your research study from your chair and reader(s) before you may enroll in Synthesis Project (EDUC 597) or Montessori Seminar (MONT 599). The next step is to seek the approval of the Human Research Institutional Review Board (IRB). You will start the development of your IRB application in EDUC 582 and complete it with your chair.

Both good practice and the law require that research involving human participants be conducted according to institutional ethical and procedural protocols intended to protect the participants from social, psychological, and physical harm. The College seeks to assure that research conducted by students, staff, and faculty that involves human participants, is conducted in accordance with College protocols and applicable legal standards through a Human Research Institutional Review Board.

With few exceptions, all research that includes human participants and is conducted by students, faculty or staff of the College must be first approved by the College's Human Research IRB. Application forms can be obtained from the following webpage:

<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/institutional-review-board>

The completed forms must be submitted to the IRB by your **chair**. Your chair will submit the application electronically as a pdf. In order to facilitate this process, you must complete the application as a single file with your last name\_application as the name of the file (e.g. Smith\_application.pdf). Complete the appendices to your application as a single file with your last name\_appendices as the name of the file (e.g. Smith\_appendices). You will work with your chair to complete the application and must send these electronic files to your chair who will then submit them to the IRB on your behalf. The Board meets approximately once every two weeks. IRB applications must be submitted via email before noon on the Friday of the week before the next meeting is held to allow time for the distribution of proposals and time for committee members to read them before the meeting. The deadlines are posted on the IRB website.

Any research conducted by graduate students that uses human beings as subjects must be reviewed and approved by the IRB. It is possible that a research project may be exempt from ongoing IRB review, but it must meet explicit criteria and the IRB staff must approve the exemption.

Beginning on January 1, 2013, there is a human subjects training requirement for all human subjects researchers (faculty and students) that must be fulfilled by all participating researchers (faculty and students) prior to beginning to collect data on your IRB application. The training is offered online through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), which was founded in March 2000 as a collaboration between the University of Miami and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. As of 2011, there were approximately 1130 institutions and organizations with access to the CITI course site. Please visit their site: [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org) and follow the instructions for setting up a new user account for yourself.

If you have questions, you may ask your EDUC 572 and EDUC 582 instructors, your chair, or the IRB Chair or the educational representatives to the IRB.

Samples of letters to directors, parents, consent forms, and scripts for children are included in Appendix E. The consent form template is available on the SMC IRB website.

## **ENROLLING IN THE FINAL COURSE**

### **SYNTHESIS PROJECT (EDUC 597)**

### **MONTESSORI SEMINAR (MONT 599)**

After the proposal has been approved, enroll in EDUC 597 or MONT 599 depending on your program. These are not traditional courses but meetings conducted independently with your chairperson and reader(s). During this class (and in subsequent terms, if necessary), you will complete your project product and then complete writing the synthesis project. Your committee will read, edit, and evaluate each draft of your work in the areas of content, style, form, and language. Expect to revise, retype, and resubmit your paper many times; this is the norm.

When you take EDUC 597 or MONT 599, the first semester you register for this course you must enroll in EDUC 597-01 or MONT 599-01. This course carries the full 3-unit tuition. If you do not complete your thesis within that semester, you must register for the in progress section (EDUC 597-IP or MONT 599-IP) of the course for as many semesters as you need to complete your thesis. This carries a \$200 fee each semester you enroll in the course. This in progress status is necessary so that you may continue to confer with your chair and reader and continue to have use of the library facilities.

The *APA Manual* must be followed for organization of the paper, details of documentation, and writing style. The *APA Manual* is designed to assist those who are submitting journal articles for publication; therefore, certain modifications can be made for projects, and other student papers.

## MAJOR SECTIONS OF THE SYNTHESIS PROJECT

Faculty members responsible for reading the synthesis project provide details regarding format and style, as well as any needed examples to guide you through the writing process.

In general, the following outline provides the format and conventions that are usually followed. Samples are in the Appendices, as noted.

**Title Page** (Appendix F)

**Copyright Page** (Appendix F)

**Signature Page** (Appendix F)

**Abstract** (Appendix F)

- One paragraph summary, a maximum of 150 words, of your synthesis project that includes the purpose of the project, theoretical rationale, the project design, evaluation findings, and conclusions.
- Write this after your study or project has been completed.

**Dedication** (optional—Appendix F)

**Acknowledgements** (optional - Appendix F)

**Table of Contents** (Appendix F)

**List of Figures** (if any) (Appendix F)

**List of Tables** (if any) (Appendix F)

### Chapter I

#### Introduction

*(chapter titles all appear bold, centered, on two lines, no colon, upper & lower case letters, as shown above)*

Introduction (do not use a heading for this section)

- Describe the current state of the problem or issue or topic
- Provide information that helps the reader understand the context for your research problem

#### Statement of the Problem

- Discuss the importance of the project.
- Present the background or history of the problem.
- Identify the general "problem" that your project addresses

**Purpose of the Project**

- State the specific purpose of educational project and what you are proposing to create
- The project should logically flow from the problem or issue and purpose you have described in the previous sections

**Limitations**

- Describe known limitations in the planned scope of your project

**Assumptions**

- State beliefs/underpinnings for your work that are not tested in your project

**Operational Definition of Terms**

- List working definitions/quotes/paraphrases from an expert for important technical terms. Include a citation for every definition..

**Implications**

- Describe the possible significance of the outcome(s) of your project (on the immediate setting and more broadly).

## **Chapter II**

### **Literature Review**

**Introduction (no heading)**

- Briefly re-state the problem and purpose of the project

**Overview of Literature Review**

- Summarize the information presented in the rest of the chapter

**Theoretical Rationale**

- Present theoretical framework(s) that provide reasons for doing the project

**Review of Related Research**

- Present a carefully organized account of empirical research relevant to your project
- Can be organized by topic/construct, chronologically, general to specific (see p. 11).
- Include reasons why studies are relevant, either throughout the section or in a summary paragraph

**Conclusions**

- Highlight the most important ideas/research presented in the chapter and relate to your project

## **Chapter III**

### **Method**

Introduction (no heading)

- Briefly re-state the problem and purpose of the project

#### **Setting**

- Describe the setting(s) where your project is intended to be used (do not use actual names of schools, etc.)

#### **Participants**

- Describe the intended audience or future users of your project

#### **Procedure**

- Design of Project
  - Describe the process through which you designed your project
- Evaluation of Project
  - Describe the means by which you evaluated your project (expert feedback, pilot test, questionnaire, etc.)

#### **Analysis of Findings**

- Describe how you analyzed the results of your evaluation (do not give findings or results here - that goes in the next chapter)

## **Chapter IV**

### **Results**

Introduction (no heading)

- Briefly re-state the problem and purpose of the project Briefly restate the method of evaluating project, and how the results of the evaluation were analyzed.

**Results** (use as many headings/subheadings as needed)

- Describe the final project or product
- Include actual project as an Appendix, or separately
- Describe the results of the evaluation of the project
- If helpful, use tables and graphs; any information presented in a table, figure or graph should also be described in the text as well



## Chapter V

### Discussion

Introduction (no heading)

- Summarize the purpose of the project
- Summarize your evaluation procedures

**Major Findings** (use as many headings/subheadings as necessary)

- Describe, interpret and evaluate major findings of the evaluation
- Discuss the ways that you incorporated the findings from the evaluation into the final version of the project or product you developed.

Organize your discussion using a logical outline that fits the way you organized your introduction and discuss the ways in which your final project or product addresses the problem or issue that you discussed in Chapters I and II. Assess the meaning of your evaluation results through evaluation and interpretation and connect those to the further development of your project or product.

Explain the limitations of your project (e.g., factors affecting the implementation of this project or product).

#### **Implications and Recommendations**

Include the implications, recommendations and applications of your project for your site, schools and/or the field of education in general.

#### **Future Development**

Describe how you would extend or expand your project.

#### **Conclusions**

Draw conclusions from your evaluation results that relate directly to your project purpose. Determine the significance of your project and how you addressed the problem raised in the introduction. Support the conclusions by making connections with studies in the review of the literature. Address what knowledge your study contributes to the field. Be sure that any generalizations are sound and justified.

#### **References**

- List only references cited in the document, and be sure that every source cited in the document has an entry in References.
- See sample in Appendix G (which is also a list of recommended research references).

#### **Appendices**

- Include important material used in the project such as the project you created, evaluation materials, and any other relevant information to your project.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPING AND FORMATTING YOUR PROJECT

*Note: The information, including formatting instructions, in these Guidelines supersedes any instructions given in previous versions of the Guidelines.*

**Fonts and Printers:** The manuscript must be printed using the same font throughout the document. For consistency, readability, and professional appearance, students are required to use Times New Roman 12 font (required for submission of theses and projects to ProQuest).

**Margins: 1 inch on all sides (left, right, top and bottom).** Any materials in the appendices that do not meet these specifications should be reduced on a photocopier so that 1" of empty space appears on all sides.

**Spacing:** The text of the project is to be double-spaced (Exceptions: Table of Contents, indented block quotations, and within references and tables).

**Pagination:** The front matter (Title page, Copyright page, Signature page, Abstract, Dedication, and Acknowledgements) are NOT given page numbers. Beginning with the Table of Contents, use lowercase Roman numerals starting with "i", and continue with the List of Figures and the List of Tables. The body of the text (Chapter I) begins with Arabic numeral "1" and continues through the References and Appendices. **All page numbers are centered at the bottom of the page, no less than 3/4 inch from the bottom of the page.** Chapter titles use uppercase Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV).

**Title Page:** Title should be no more than 120 characters. No page number is given on Title page. Contains title of the work (in title case), the individual Department/School's name, the College's name, the statement of degree fulfillment, the degree given, the student's name, and the term and year the degree will be conferred (e.g., Spring 2015). If you finish your thesis **prior** to your graduation, put the term and year you completed your thesis on the title page. A sample is provided in Appendix F.

**Copyright Page:** No page number is given on the page. Sample provided in Appendix F.

**Signature Page:** No page number is given on the page. Sample provided in Appendix F.

**Abstract:** Title is bold, upper and lower case (APA Heading Level 1). Length is 150 words maximum. Format is one paragraph, no indentation, double-spaced. There is no page number.

**Dedication:** Title is bold, upper and lower case (APA heading Level 1). Format is indented paragraph, double-spaced. There is no page number. This page is optional.

**Acknowledgements:** Title is bold, upper and lower case (APA heading Level 1). Format is indented paragraph, double-spaced. There is no page number. This page is optional.

**Table of Contents:** Title is bold, upper and lower case (APA heading Level 1). These pages are full justified (even on both left and right sides). Double space between chapter titles, single space

between sections within chapters. Indents, as needed, are 5 spaces. Page numbering begins with lower case Roman numerals, and page numbers are printed bottom center of the pages.

**Headers and Footers:** You do not need headers or footers, except for the page numbers at the bottom center of the page. Do not use running heads.

## ADDITIONAL TIPS

**Plagiarism:** Be very careful to put things in your own words, using your own syntax, throughout the paper. It can be easy to slip into bad habits around rewording; it is not sufficient to simply replace a few words in a sentence with synonyms.

**Repetition within your paper:** There are places in the paper where you will revisit information from previous chapters. Be sure to do this without lifting entire sentences or paragraphs—reword your own work as well! The exception is when you restate your research question(s).

**Outlining:** If you have not been one to make outlines for papers, now is the time to start! Making a good outline can be extremely useful in organizing your paper and in helping you to focus on what to do next. Review your proposed chapter outlines with your chair before you start writing, to be sure that you are on the right track.

**Keep writing!** Writing is difficult work, and you will have times when you feel stuck. Keep working on something, even if it's just typing up your references. Another benefit of the outline is that, when you get stuck in one area, you can look at the outline and move to another section that you might find yourself able to write.

**Keep track of references:** Keep good notes about your references so that every reference in your paper is on your References list, and vice-versa. One tip when you get close to being done is to print your References and then search through your paper for the open parenthesis “( )” symbol to double check that every reference on your list is in your paper.

**Direct quotations:** Use these only sparingly and always cite a page number.

**Serialization:** Separate simple series with commas and complex series with semi-colons; use (a), (b), (c) to make the series easier to read.

**Punctuation:** Please review APA pages on punctuation! Students tend to make basic mistakes regarding commas, semi-colons, colons, hyphenation, and apostrophes.

**Your writing style needs to be:**

- In either the first or the third person.
- Clear and concise (yet often redundant).
- Non-biased (avoid editorializing, stating your opinion, and making judgments).
- Adequately and appropriately cited.
- Straight forward (non-creative).

- If you have significant difficulties and/or the chair determines that extensive editing is required, you may be asked to hire an editor; (see Appendix B for a list).

## COPYRIGHT

**As per the United States Copyright Act of 1976, students automatically hold the copyright to their work.** It is illegal for anyone to reproduce any part of the work without the author's permission. So that inherent copyright is explicitly stated, include a copyright notice within your document, immediately following the title page. A sample is provided in Appendix E.

### *Permissions*

If the work includes large sections of other copyrighted works (including, but not limited to, tables, graphs, lists, photos), please submit written permission from the publisher or author with your document. Indicate in the document that the material is "Used with Permission." Materials included that are consistent with "fair use," such as short or standard block quotations, do not need this written permission.

## HEADINGS

In the *APA Publication Manual* (2010), see page 62, section 3.03, Levels of Heading, for all of the new 6<sup>th</sup> ed. requirements for headings. There are five possible heading levels. If you have three levels of headings in your paper, then use Levels 1, 2, and 3. If you have four levels of headings, then use Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Level 1:

**Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase Heading**

Level 2:

**Flush left, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase Heading**

Level 3:

**Indented, boldface, lowercase paragraph heading ending in a period.**

Level 4:

***Indented, boldface, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending in a period.***

Level 5:

***Indented, italicized, lowercase paragraph heading ending in a period.***

## Heading Examples

Level 1:

### Chapter I

#### Introduction

Your introductory paragraphs do not have a heading .....

Level 2:

#### Background of the Problem

Introductory paragraph for this Level 2 heading. ....

Level 3:

**History of eating disorders.** Text of paragraph follows .....

**Factors contributing to eating disorders.** Text of paragraph follows .....

Level 4:

*Individual factors.* Text of paragraph follows. ....

*Family systems factors.* Text of paragraph follows. If this Level 4 heading has subheadings, then this is the introductory paragraph. ....

Level 5

*First subheading of family systems factors.* Text of paragraph follows .....

## Chapter I

### Formatting and Style Information

The introduction of the paper begins here. Double-space throughout the paper, including the title page, abstract, and the body of the document; some items, such as indented quotations and references, can be single-spaced. Examples of these are included later in these guidelines. The body of each chapter begins on a new page. Subsections of the body of the paper do not begin on a new page. Headings are used to organize the document and reflect the relative importance of sections.

#### **Second Level Heading: Text Citations**

Source material must be documented in the body of the paper by citing the author(s) and date(s) of the sources. This is to give proper credit to the ideas and words of others. When in doubt, cite more often. The reader can obtain the full source citation from the list of references that follows the body of the paper. When the names of the authors of a source are part of the formal structure of the sentence, the year of the publication appears in parenthesis following the identification of the authors—for example, Eby and Mitchell (2001). When the authors of a source are not part of the formal structure of the sentence, both the authors and years of publication appear in parentheses, in alphabetical order, separated by semicolons (Eby & Mitchell, 2001; Passerallo, Pearson, & Brock, 2000). When a source that has three, four, five or six authors is cited, all authors are included the first time the source is cited. When that source is cited again, the first author's surname and "et al.," are used as follows (Passerallo et al., 2000).

**Third level heading.** When a source that has two authors is cited, both authors are cited every time. If there are seven or more authors to be cited, use the first author's surname and "et al." the first and each subsequent time it is cited. Although direct quotations are rarely used in an academic paper, when a direct quotation is used, always include the author(s), year, and page

number as part of the citation. A quotation of fewer than 40 words should be enclosed in double quotation marks and should be incorporated into the formal structure of the sentence. A longer quote of 40 or more words should appear (without quotes) in block format, single spaced, with each line indented five spaces from the left margin.

***Fourth level heading.*** The References section begins on a new page. The heading is a Level 1 heading: Centered, Boldface, Uppercase and Lowercase Heading. The references (with hanging indent) begin on the line following the references heading. Single space within each reference, and double space between references. Entries are organized alphabetically by surnames of first authors. Most reference entries have three components: author(s), year of publication, and source reference. *Authors* are listed in the same order as specified in the source, using surnames and initials. Commas separate all authors, even for an entry with two authors. If no author is identified, the title of the document begins the reference. *Year of publication* is in parenthesis following authors, with a period following the closing parenthesis. If no publication date is identified, use “n.d.” in parenthesis following the authors. For journal articles, the *source references* include the title of article, journal, volume, and page numbers. For books, *source references* include the title of the book, city and state of publication, and publisher. Titles of books and journal articles are only capitalized for the first letter of the first word, the first letter of the first word after a colon, and any proper nouns (see References, below, for examples).

*Fifth level heading.* Is italicized and not bolded.



## Appendices

### Appendix A

Initial Chair and Reader Approval Sheet

### Appendix B

Master's Workflow Contract

### Appendix C

List of Editors, Statisticians, and Writing Tutors

### Appendix D

The "Mini" Proposal: Synthesis Project Proposal Outline

### Appendix E

Samples of Letters and Scripts

### Appendix F

Sample Front Matter Pages

### Appendix G

Sample References

### Appendix H

Master's Synthesis Project 2019-20 Deadlines

### Appendix I

Flowchart for Thesis Completion Process and ProQuest Upload

### Appendix J

Front Matter Checklist

### Appendix K

Directions for Submitting Your Master's Degree Manuscript to ProQuest

### Appendix L

Final Approval of Document and Degree Completion

### Appendix M

Binding Options Other Than ProQuest

**Appendix A**

**Initial Chair & Reader Approval Sheet**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to complete a:  Thesis  Synthesis Project  Counseling Project  
 CPCE

My topic: \_\_\_\_\_

---

The purpose is: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

After the initial enrollment in the final course (e.g., EDUC 592-01, EDUC 597-01, COUN 550-01, MATS 532-01, MONT 599-01), students must register as “In Progress” during each 14 week semester until completion of the thesis, synthesis project, or counseling master’s project. A five year maximum is permitted for a master’s degree program. To participate in the commencement activities, a Commencement Registration Form and degree processing fee must be submitted by the second Friday in March of the year of graduation (for a May graduation date).

CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ READER \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print Name* *Print Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson's Signature* *Reader's Signature*

Program  
Director/Department  
Manager approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature:: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

### Master's Workflow Contract

**Instructions for use**

This contract is meant to guide work in EDUC 578, EDUC 592, EDUC 597, COUN 550, MONT 599, and/or MATS 532. Students may also want to use this form to guide their work in EDUC 572 and EDUC 582. This contract is designed to support a timeline for completion of the final master's document (e.g., thesis, synthesis project, counseling project, action research project, etc.). Use this as a way to draft the tasks necessary to complete the different aspects of the final master's document and to plan the amount of time for completion. In addition, this contract is meant to support communication between students and the faculty chair to ensure a strong working relationship. This document should be updated regularly with each communication between student and faculty chair.

Date	Task	Plan for task completion	Estimated number of hours for task completion (including turnaround time)	Plan for communication (i.e. face-to-face conversations, email, phone calls)	Deadline for completion	Completed (check when completed)
	<i>Use as many rows as needed</i>					

This contract signifies that we have discussed the tasks, the deadlines, the plan for completion of your master's thesis or project and the plan for communication. We will work cooperatively to complete and meet all deadlines.

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

## Appendix C

### List of Editors, Statisticians, and Writing Tutors

#### Editors

Name	Contact Information
Michele Anderson	<a href="mailto:Mcanderson25@mac.com">Mcanderson25@mac.com</a> 415-407-2620
Editcetera Barbara Fuller, Director	<a href="mailto:Barbara@editcetera.com">Barbara@editcetera.com</a> 510-849-1110
Lesley Hilp	<a href="mailto:lesleyt.hilp@gmail.com">lesleyt.hilp@gmail.com</a> <b>925-819-2168</b>
Sylvia King	<a href="mailto:sylviaking@aol.com">sylviaking@aol.com</a> 925-998-9748
Krista Soria	<a href="http://editinggeek.com/about.html">http://editinggeek.com/about.html</a> <a href="mailto:editinggeek2012@gmail.com">editinggeek2012@gmail.com</a>
Xanna Schweickhardt	510-558-8095 landline 510-495-4007 mobile <a href="mailto:superxanna@gmail.com">superxanna@gmail.com</a>
Ken Worthy	<a href="mailto:kw@worthyediting.com">kw@worthyediting.com</a> <a href="http://worthyediting.com">http://worthyediting.com</a>
Mary Ziadeh	<a href="mailto:mziadeh@stmarys-ca.edu">mziadeh@stmarys-ca.edu</a>

#### Transcription Resources

Name	Contact Information
Brock Howard	925-286-4610

#### Statisticians

Name	Contact Information
Carolyn Hartsough	<a href="mailto:Carolynh@socrates.berkeley.edu">Carolynh@socrates.berkeley.edu</a> 510.548.5027
Bruce Ingraham	<a href="mailto:bai1@stmarys-ca.edu">bai1@stmarys-ca.edu</a> 510-527-5625
Renate Otterbach	<a href="mailto:otterbach@usfca.edu">otterbach@usfca.edu</a> 925.422.2999 (O) 415.586.4796 (H)

#### Writing Tutors (These tutors are not APA specialists)

Betty Amarant	<a href="mailto:bamarant@stmarys-ca.edu">bamarant@stmarys-ca.edu</a>
Aline Cook	<a href="mailto:alinecook@hotmail.com">alinecook@hotmail.com</a>
Chris Correale (can assist international students)	<a href="mailto:cfcl@stmarys-ca.edu">cfcl@stmarys-ca.edu</a> 415-244-6817
Andy Crockett	<a href="mailto:andycrockett@hotmail.com">andycrockett@hotmail.com</a>
Jenny Haele	<a href="mailto:kailo6@yahoo.com">kailo6@yahoo.com</a>

Anne Hedges	<a href="mailto:ateach@pacbell.net">ateach@pacbell.net</a>
Nanci Higgins	<a href="mailto:NanciHiggins@yahoo.com">NanciHiggins@yahoo.com</a> 925-915-9778
LeAnn McGinley	<a href="mailto:1kmcginley@sbcglobal.net">1kmcginley@sbcglobal.net</a>
Lisa Shafer	510-759-7185
Cate Sundling	<a href="mailto:catesam@sbcglobal.net">catesam@sbcglobal.net</a> 925-212-9892

NOTE: in addition to these writing tutors, additional writing support is available through the Center for Writing Across the Curriculum (CWAC) which offers free writing advising to all students. CWAC is located on the first floor of De La Salle Hall (next to Hagerty Lounge). There are two options for students of all disciplines and levels:

*Writing Circles:* During weekly, small-group workshops, students discuss their own writing projects, theses, or dissertations. To join a Circle, students visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/WritingCircles) before or during the first week of the semester, as Circles begin meeting week two. Once scheduled into a Circle time, students register for that section of EDUC 502/504.

*One-on-one sessions:* Students make appointments or drop in 4-8 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; and 12-4 p.m. Friday. Alternate hours and online sessions are also available. Contact information is: [925.631.4684](tel:925.631.4684) or on the web at: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/cwac). Writing Advisers guide their peers toward expressing ideas clearly, always weighing audience and purpose. Writers bring their theses, dissertations, or course materials in order to brainstorm ideas, revise drafts, or work on specific aspects of writing, such as grammar, citation, organization, or research methods.

## Appendix D

### The “Mini” Proposal: Synthesis Project Proposal Outline

From *A Guide to Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation Proposal in Education* by Gall and Borg  
(with permission from the authors)

#### Synthesis Proposal Outline

1. Purpose of the project

A. (In one sentence only.) The purpose of this project is

---

---

---

---

B. Your project is based on which studies? (give citations)

---

---

---

---

C. How does your project use previous research to inform the development of your proposed product? (no more than three sentences)

---

---

---

---

2. Project Objectives

A. My project objectives are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Literature Search

A. I will use these descriptors in my literature search:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

B. I will consult these bibliographic references in my literature review:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Design

Briefly describe the way in which you will design your project or product. Explain the way you will develop and/or create this project or product and what you will use to inform that process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Instrumentation

Explain what measure(s) you will use to evaluate your product.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

5. Evaluation Sample

A. My evaluation sample will consist of (check one):

people \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ events \_\_\_\_\_

that have these characteristics:

---

---

---

---

B. My sampling procedure will be (e.g., random, stratified, intact groups):

---

---

---

---

C. My evaluation sample size will be

---

D. My sample will include subgroups:

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, the subgroups are:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_



E. The unit of analysis will be:

groups \_\_\_\_\_

individuals \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Analysis

Describe how you intend to analyze the results of your evaluation.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Appendix E

### Samples of Letters and Scripts

#### SAMPLE COVER LETTER INVITING PARTICIPATION

September 28, 2013

Dear Parent,

I am currently conducting research for my Masters of Education in Instruction at Saint Mary's College of California. I invite you to participate in my study, which will examine home schooling as a venue for educating gifted and talented children. Findings will be published in hopes that the information gathered will help parents and teachers explore various options for meeting the individual needs of gifted and talented children. It will provide information about what models, programs, methods, and materials are being used at home. Your experiences, opinions, and insight are a crucial component of this research.

Participating families will be emailed a demographic survey and a copy of the interview questions. An interview will be arranged and, with your permission, our interview will be audio-taped and subsequently transcribed. While taping, you may feel free to change or omit responses at any time. All survey and interview information will remain confidential and in my possession only throughout the compilation of data. The tapes and surveys will be destroyed after the completion of this study. Data collected will be compiled and results will show only collective information. Please be assured your participation is voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time.

In appreciation of your participation in this study, I will be happy to provide participating families a copy of the completed study.

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Saint Mary's College Institutional Review Board for Human Participants in Research. The Institutional Review Board believes that the research procedures adequately safeguard the subject's privacy, welfare, civil liberties, and rights. Copies of the approved application are available upon request.

If you choose to participate, please contact me at (510) 123-4567 or [sample@comcast.net](mailto:sample@comcast.net) to arrange a mutually agreeable time and place for the interview.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melanie Hayes

SAMPLE SCRIPT/PERMISSION FORM FOR CONSENT FROM CHILD PARTICIPANT IN  
STUDY OF HOME SCHOOLED GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

I am willing to be interviewed by Melanie Hayes for a study about home schooling gifted and talented children.

\_Yes \_No

My participation in this study is voluntary and I understand that I can stop participating at any time.

\_Yes \_No

I understand that the interview will be audio-taped.

\_Yes \_No

I understand that I may choose not to answer any question.

\_Yes \_No

I understand that I will not be identified by name in any report of this study.

\_Yes \_No

I understand that Melanie Hayes will answer any questions I may have concerning this study.

\_Yes \_No

I agree to participate in this study and give my permission to use the information from this interview for the study.

\_Yes \_No

Child's Name:		Age:	
---------------	--	------	--

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Melanie Hayes

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN STUDY OF HOME SCHOOLED  
GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

I give my permission for my child to participate in an interview conducted by Melanie Hayes, Master of Education candidate at the Kalmanovitz School of Education at Saint Mary's College of California. The interview is part of a study being conducted by Melanie Hayes to gain a better understanding of how home schooling serves the needs of gifted and talented children.

I understand and agree to the terms listed below about the nature of my child's involvement in the study, the possible risks and benefits, and the way the information will be used.

My child's participation in this study is voluntary. I may withdraw my child from the study and discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

No discomforts or risks are involved.

I understand that the interview will be audio-taped.

I understand that my child may choose not to answer any question he or she feels is of too personal a nature. My child will not be identified by name in any report of this study. A composite of the data will protect individual anonymity. All written and taped records will be kept confidential. All tapes and surveys will be destroyed at the completion of this study.

Melanie Hayes is available to answer any questions I may have concerning this study. She can be reached at 510-123-4567.

On the basis of the information here, I agree to let my child participate in this study and give my permission to use the information gathered for purposes of research and education.

Parent of Study Participant		Date
Melanie Hayes		Date

**Appendix F**  
**Sample Front Matter Pages**

Type your Title in Title Case Here: No More than 120 Characters, Including Spaces

A Master's Project

Presented to

The Faculty of the Kalmanovitz School of Education

Saint Mary's College of California

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

By

Your Name

Spring 2020

Copyright © 2020 by John Doe

All Rights Reserved

This master's project, written under the direction of the candidate's master's project advisory committee and approved by members of the committee, has been presented to and accepted by the faculty of the Kalmanovitz School of Education, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

---

Candidate: Your Name Here

---

Date

Master's Project Advisory Committee:

---

Chair: Name, Highest Degree

---

Date

---

Reader: Name, Highest Degree

---

Date

---

Program Director: Name, Highest Degree

---

Date

---

Interim Dean: Mary Kay Moskal, Ed.D.

---

Date



## **Abstract**

Complete Title of Synthesis Project  
By  
John Doe  
Degree Name in Specialization  
Saint Mary's College of California, 2020  
Jane Doe, Chair

Your abstract will be here. It should be typed as a left-justified double-spaced block paragraph with no indentation. It should be no more than 150 words.

## **Dedication**

Write Dedication in indented paragraphs. Double spaced. No minimum or maximum characters or words. This page is optional. There is no page number on this page, although the page is counted in the front matter.

## **Acknowledgements**

Write Acknowledgements in indented paragraphs. Double spaced. No minimum or maximum characters or words. This page is optional. There is no page number on this page, although the page is counted in the front matter.

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
List of Figures .....	ix
List of Tables .....	x
Chapter	
I. Introduction .....	1
Statement of the Problem.....	3
Purpose of Project .....	6
Limitations .....	7
Assumptions.....	8
Operational Definition of Terms.....	10
Implications.....	12
II. Literature Review .....	13
Overview of Literature Review .....	14
Theoretical Rationale .....	19
Review of Related Research .....	21
Conclusions.....	24
III. Method .....	41
Setting .....	41
Participants.....	42
Procedure .....	42
Analysis of Findings .....	50
IV. Results.....	51
Results.....	51
Use as many headings as needed in this section.....	52
V. Discussion .....	54
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Use as many headings as needed in this section.....	56
References.....	60
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A. Title of Appendix A .....	66

B.	Title of Appendix B.....	67
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## List of Figures

Figure

1. Caption of Figure .....52

## List of Tables

Table

1. Title of Table.....	52
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## Appendix G

### References

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## Appendix H

### Master's Thesis / Project 2019-2020 Deadlines

DEADLINE DATES FOR DEGREE PROGRAMS	SUMMER 2019 DEGREE DEADLINES	FALL 2019 DEGREE DEADLINES	JAN 2020 DEGREE DEADLINES	SPRING 2020 DEGREE DEADLINES
REGISTER ONLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT	8/16/19	12/13/19	2/7/20	3/6/20
SUBMIT <b>FINAL DRAFT</b> OF THESIS/PROJECT TO CHAIR/RESEARCH ADVISOR	7/10/19	10/30/19	1/8/20	4/10/20
SUBMIT <b>CHAIR-APPROVED DRAFT</b> OF THESIS/PROJECT TO READER/FACULTY ADVISOR	7/26/19	11/13/19	1/15/20	4/24/20
SUBMIT <b>FINAL COPY*</b> OF THESIS/PROJECT TO CHAIR FOR FINAL CHECK AND SIGNATURES	8/7/19	11/27/19	1/29/20	5/15/20
UPLOAD FINAL/THESIS/PROJECT TO PROQUEST**	8/16/19	12/13/19	2/7/20	5/26/20
SUBMIT DEGREE VERIFICATION	9/20/19	1/14/20	3/13/20	6/30/20

\* **Final Copy** is approved by Chair and Reader or Research and Faculty Advisor and only formatting changes can be made after this point.

\*\* After upload to ProQuest and after grades are posted, submit Degree Verification Application form online along with the required documents (ProQuest receipt, signature page, and unofficial transcript) in order to process degree.

Learners in the MA Leadership (GLD) program who complete their projects and coursework in December are eligible to walk in Commencement. Those learners in the program who are within 6 units of completion of their coursework in the spring are also eligible to participate in Commencement.

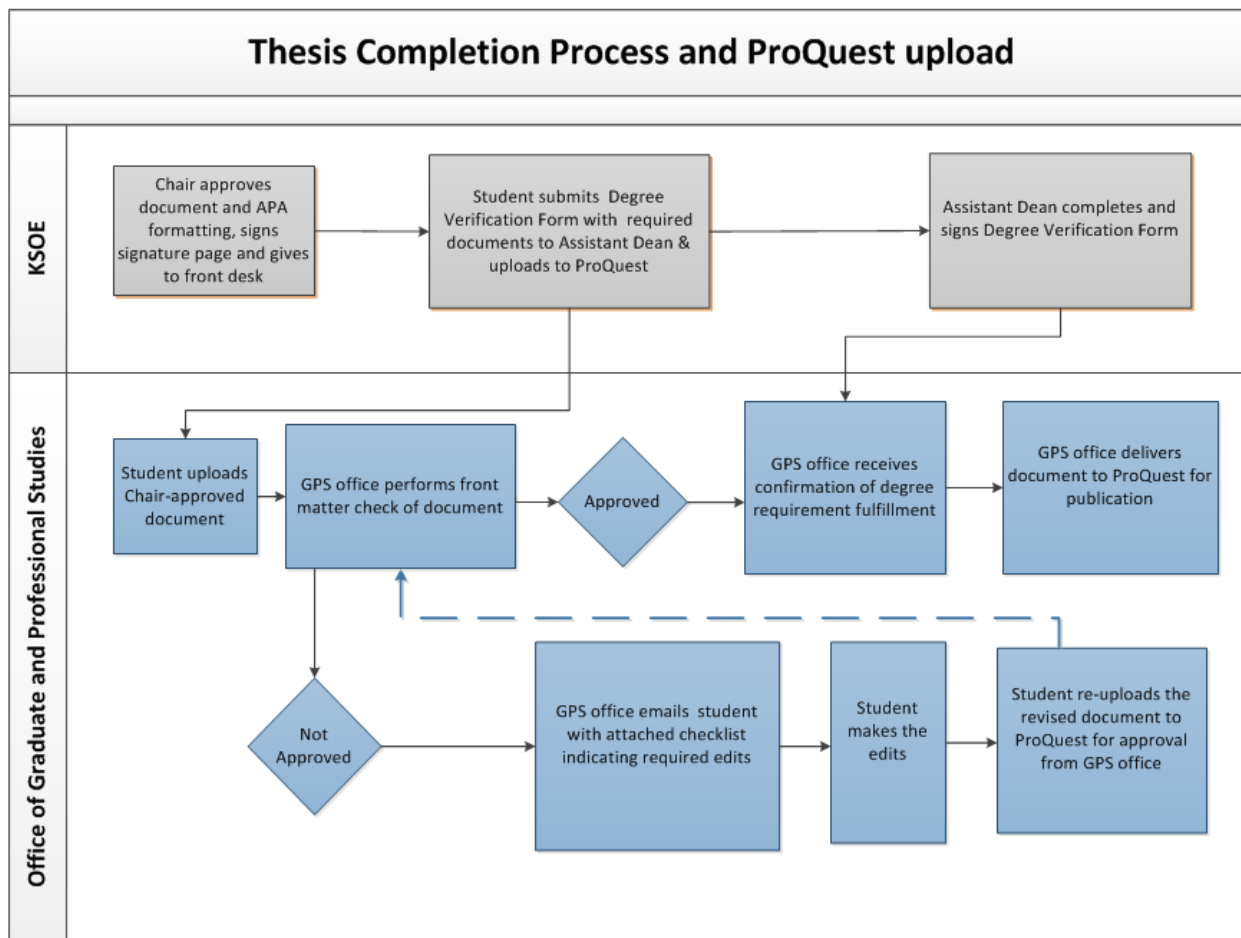
In order to participate in the May 2020 Commencement, you must submit the **final copy** of your thesis/project to your chair by 5/15/20.

If you complete program requirements earlier in the year, you may still participate in May Commencement activities. You are still required to meet the other respective deadlines.

## Appendix I

### Flowchart for Thesis Completion Process and ProQuest Upload

This flowchart is designed to show you the process for completing the final version of your thesis document and then uploading it to ProQuest. Use the Front Matter Checklist (Appendix J) to make sure that you have formatted the front matter pages correctly. A sample is also included in this booklet (see Appendix F). Note that your Chair is responsible for ensuring that your document is in APA format and that the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies will conduct a check of the front matter using the checklist in Appendix J. If your document is not formatted correctly when the GPS Office checks it, you will need to upload a revised version to ProQuest.



## Appendix J

### Front Matter Checklist

#### I. General APA Guidelines

- Double-spaced on standard-sized paper (8.5" x 11")
- 1" margins on all sides
- 12 pt. Times New Roman font
- Page numbers are centered in footer (below bottom margin)
- Do not use running heads anywhere in the document

#### II. Correct Order of Major Front Matter Sections

- 1. Title Page (not numbered but counted; i)
- 2. Copyright Page (not numbered but counted; ii)
- 3. Signature Page (not numbered but counted; iii)
- 4. Abstract (not numbered but counted; iv)
- 5. Dedication (optional; not numbered but counted; v)
- 6. Acknowledgements (optional; not numbered but counted; vi)
- 7. Table of Contents (first page in front matter with a page number; vii)
- 8. List of Figures (if any figures are used; number at bottom of page)
- 9. List of Tables (if any tables are used; number at bottom of page)

#### III. Title Page

- 1. Title is centered on the page
- 2. Title is in Title Case format (not bolded, underlined, italicized, or in caps).
- 3. College name is listed and written as "Saint Mary's College of California"
- 4. Degree Name is listed
- 5. Author's name is listed
- 6. Date of degree is the term and year of completion of degree requirements (e.g., Spring 2013)
- 7. Title page counted but is not numbered

#### IV. Copyright Page

- 1. Copyright page is counted but not numbered
- 2. Information below is centered and located approximately three-fourths of the distance down the page:
- 

Copyright © 2012 by John Doe  
All Rights Reserved

#### V. Signature Page

- 1. Signature page is counted but not numbered
- 2. Page includes blanks for the following names, in this order:  
Candidate, Committee Members (including Chair), Program Director, Dean
- 3. Names and titles are typed underneath each blank
- 4. Highest degree for each committee member/administrator is included after the name

- 5. Signatures are NOT included

**VI. Abstract**

- 1. Abstract page is counted but not numbered
- 2. Abstract is typed as a left-justified double-spaced block paragraph (no indentation)
- 3. Abstract page begins with the title **Abstract** centered and bolded at the top
- 4. As shown below, after **Abstract** type the additional information about the thesis or dissertation (centered, not bolded)

**Abstract**  
Complete Title of Synthesis Project  
by  
John Doe  
Degree Name in Specialization  
Saint Mary's College of California, 2020  
Jane Doe, Chair

- 5. The Abstract is limited to 150 words for MA theses and projects.

**VII. Dedication and/or Acknowledgements**

- 1. Dedication and/or Acknowledgements pages are optional
- 2. If used, Dedication page goes after the Abstract and begins with title **Dedication** centered and bolded at the top
- 3. If used, Acknowledgement page goes after the Dedication (or after the Abstract, if there is no Dedication) and begins with the title **Acknowledgements** centered and bolded at the top
- 4. If used, Dedication and/or Acknowledgements pages counted but not numbered.

**VIII. Table of Contents**

- 1. Table of Contents page begins with title **Table of Contents** centered and bolded at the top
- 2. Table of Contents page is printed with lowercase Roman numeral in the footer (bottom center), following in sequence from the Abstract and Dedication and/or Acknowledgements (if used)
- 3. Formatted in the following manner:
  - After the title **Table of Contents** list the remaining Front Matter sections in the following order:
    - List of Figures, List of Tables
  - Front Matter section titles are Title Case at left margin, with the appropriate page number, in lowercase Roman numerals, right-justified (at right margin)
  - Next, list the Main Text sections in the following order:
    - Chapter, References, Appendix or Appendices (if any)

- Chapter headings are capitalized at left margin, with no page number listed on the right margin
- Chapter titles begin with uppercase Roman numerals indented 5 spaces from the left margin, followed by chapter name in Title Case (eg, “II. Literature Review”)
- Level 2 subheadings within chapters are in Title Case, indented an additional 5 spaces, with no Roman numerals. Level 3 headings are optional. No headings beyond Level 3 should be included in the Table of Contents
- All Main Text sections, chapters, and subheadings are shown with the appropriate page number, as an Arabic numeral, right-justified (at right margin)

**IX. List of Figures**

- 1. Page begins with the title “List of Figures” centered and bolded at the top.
- 2. Page is printed with lowercase Roman numeral in the footer (bottom center), following in sequence from the Table of Contents
- 3. Formatted in the following manner:
  - After the title “List of Figures,” begin with the word “Figure” at the left margin
  - For each figure, indent 5 spaces and give the number of the figure, followed by the caption of the figure in Title Case, followed by appropriate Arabic page numbers right-justified at the right margin

**X. List of Tables**

- 1. Page begins with the title “List of Tables” centered and bolded at the top.
- 2. Page is printed with lowercase Roman numeral in the footer (bottom center), following in sequence from the Table of Contents and Table of Figures (if any)
- 3. Formatted in the following manner:
  - After the title “List of Tables,” begin with the word “Table” at the left margin
  - For each table, indent 5 spaces and give the number of the figure, followed by the title of the table in Title Case, followed by appropriate Arabic page numbers right-justified at the right margin

**XI. Rest of the Document**

- 1. First page of the document begins with an Arabic numeral 1
- References and Appendices have page numbers that are numbered sequentially with the text
- Each Appendix must have a title

## Appendix K

### Directions for Submitting Your Master's Degree Manuscript to ProQuest

1. Go to ProQuest website for Saint Mary's College of California:  
[www.etsadmin.com/stmarysca](http://www.etsadmin.com/stmarysca)
2. Click on the *Resources and Guidelines* tab on the blue bar. Review the information to make sure you have accurately formatted your manuscript carefully by going to the following links:
  - a. *Publishing Guides*:
    - i. *Preparing your manuscript for submission (including supplemental files)*
3. Make sure you accurately format your manuscript by following the instructions for embedding the fonts and then save it in PDF format.
  - a. Your chair should review the PDF that you are submitting to ProQuest to ensure that your project is free of errors in APA style and writing mechanics and that it represents the high standards and quality of the KSOE/SMC.
  - b. You may make changes to your PDF even after you have submitted it to ProQuest.
  - c. Once you upload your PDF to ProQuest the front matter will be reviewed by the staff in the Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS) office.
  - d. If there are errors in the front matter the GPS office staff member will ask you to revise the PDF and then re-upload the revised PDF to ProQuest
  - e. Final delivery of your PDF to ProQuest is made by the staff of the GPS office pending their approval of the front matter and your completion of all degree requirements.
4. Before uploading your manuscript, make sure that you have the following information or files at your finger tips:
  - a. The manuscript saved in PDF
  - b. Abstract
  - c. Optional supplementary files (images, data)
  - d. Your chair and reader's names, and the name of the KSOE Dean
  - e. Subject category (School of Education)
5. Click on *Submitting Your Dissertation/Thesis* tab on the blue bar; OR on the HOME tab on the blue bar.
  - a. You will need to set up an account with an ID and password.
    - i. You will need this information in the future to view or revise an existing submission.

6. Once you are in the submission site, you will be walked through a step-by-step process of submitting your manuscript and answering questions related to:
  - a. Your publishing option: The details for the various options are explained on the site; some options have a fee and some do not.
  - b. Copyright choice: The details for the various options are explained on the site; some options have a fee and some do not.
  - c. Contact information
  - d. Requests for ordering bound copies of your project.
7. KSOE does not require students to purchase bound copies of your thesis for the library or program.
8. You have a number of choices if you want to order copies for yourself through ProQuest.
  - a. The details for the various options are explained on the site, and the costs vary among the options.
  - b. Please note that you will not be paying for paper or duplicating, as these are included in the fee.
  - c. You will have to pay for all copies by credit card
9. Copies you order for yourself through ProQuest will be sent directly to you at the address you give to ProQuest.
10. The digital copy in ProQuest serves as the required official copy for both the Kalmanovitz School of Education and the Library. SMC faculty and students can access the full text of digital theses and dissertations, both by searching directly in the ProQuest database and by linking from the listing in the Library catalogue.

Note: Once your document is uploaded into ProQuest it will go through a final approval process. There may be some additional edits to the formatting based on this final check. In addition, the final approval of your document to be uploaded to ProQuest is dependent on your submission of the Degree Verification Form and completing all the requirements for your degree (see Appendix J for additional guidance in submitting this form). Your document will not be given final approval in ProQuest until you submit the Degree Verification Form and have been approved to receive your degree (i.e. you have met all the requirements for your degree). Once that final approval process is complete, it will likely take up to 8-12 weeks before your counseling project is available through ProQuest. We assume it will take the same amount of time to receive your bound copies.

## **Appendix L**

### **Final Approval of Document and Degree Completion**

In order to finalize your document, signify your participation in Commencement, and to receive your degree there are a series of steps you must complete.

The first step is to complete and submit the Commencement Registration Form. This form is the required first step regardless of whether you intend to participate in the May 2020 Commencement Ceremony. The deadlines for this form are included in the KSOE Deadline Matrix in Appendix H.

The final approval of your document will be done via the signature page process which is described below. In addition, in order to finalize your degree and receive your diploma, you will need to submit the Degree Verification Form. That process is also described below.

#### **Signature Page Process**

Once your chair and reader have approved your final document, you will need to start the signature page process. The signature page is important because it signifies that all those who sign it have approved your document as part of the requirements for your degree. Please note, however, that the signature page you include in your thesis/synthesis/counseling project document is blank and does not need to be signed. The signed signature page will go in your file to signal completion of the thesis/synthesis/counseling project document.

Here are the steps to completing the signature page process:

- 1) Print out a copy of the signature page that you include in your document (thesis, synthesis, counseling project). The signature page is formatted correctly in the Guidelines as well as in the template, so be sure to use the correctly formatted page. In addition, make sure that all names are spelled correctly and that the highest degree for each person on the page is also correct.
- 2) Sign and date it
- 3) Submit your signature page (with only your signature) to the KSOE front desk
- 4) The workers at the front desk will then give your signature page to your chair who will sign it and send it around to the rest of those who need to sign.
- 5) Once the signature page has been signed by all those required, you will receive an email with a pdf copy of the signed signature page attached.

Please note that you may also submit a scanned version of the signature page. Please note the following considerations:

- 1) The chair can sign for the reader if the reader has sent the chair an email that says he/she approves of the final version.
- 2) Signatures can be signed and scanned. There should be an email trail so that the signature of the faculty is actually coming from the faculty.



- 3) Scanned signature page needs to come from the faculty email and still sent to the PD and chair for final sign off. From there, the signature page still needs to go to the front desk for checking in and scanning. The front desk is not doing the routing (except for to the dean's office). Chair handles the signature page up to the Dean's signature.

### **Degree Verification Form**

In order to finalize your degree, you need to submit the Degree Verification Form. This form can be found on the KSOE website. This form must be submitted once you have 1) uploaded your document to ProQuest; 2) have received your completely signed signature page; 3) your final grades have posted.

Here are the steps to complete the Degree Verification Form:

- 1) Print out and complete the Degree Verification Form from the KSOE website.
- 2) Submit the completed form, a copy of your signature page, and an unofficial SMC transcript to the KSOE front desk or via email (send to [soereq@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:soereq@stmarys-ca.edu))
- 3) Once this form has been submitted, a final audit will be completed to ensure that you have completed all the requirements for your degree and then your degree will be posted and you will receive your diploma.

## Appendix M

### Binding Options Other than ProQuest

Bound copies of your thesis must be done through ProQuest. Additional copies for yourself may be done through ProQuest or a bindery of your choice. Below are some resources for binderies:

Trappist Abbey Bookbindery

P.O. Box 97

Lafayette, OR 97127

(503) 852-0106

Email: [bindery@trappistabbey.org](mailto:bindery@trappistabbey.org)

Web: <http://www.trappistabbey.org/bindery.html>

To locate other binderies look online or the San Francisco Bay Area telephone books.