

Department of Agricultural Education & Studies

Components of a Thesis/Dissertation*

- **Chapter 1**
 - Introduction
 - Background information, situation, problem
 - Need for the study
 - Purpose & objectives
 - Significance of the study
 - Definition of selected terms
 - Chapter Summary
 - **Chapter 2**
 - Introduction
 - Review of the literature
 - Theoretical or conceptual framework
 - Basis for the research
 - Models, if any
 - Research questions & their fit to the theoretical/conceptual frame
 - Hypotheses, if any
 - Chapter summary
 - **Chapter 3**
 - Introduction
 - Methods & procedures to conduct the study
 - Research design of the study
 - Data gathering instrument development or adaptation of existing instrument
 - Data collection procedures outlined
 - Data analysis procedures to be used
 - Assumptions made by investigator
 - Limitations of the study
 - **Chapter 4**
 - Introduction
 - Reliability tests results
 - Presentation of results & findings of the study
 - Presentation of the data/data tables
 - Demographic/profile of participants in the study, response rates
 - Address each objective & how data answers each research question
 - Presentation of hypotheses, if used, and extent to which hypotheses are supported
 - Presentation of comments in summary form, if used
 - **Chapter 5**
 - Introduction
 - Discussion of the results & findings
 - Describing how the data & findings contribute to the body of knowledge
 - Tying the findings back to the theoretical framework &/or conceptual frame
 - If model(s) are used, revisions & adaptations, if any
 - Answering the "so what" question
 - **Chapter 6**
 - Introduction
 - Brief overview & summary of the study
 - Conclusions drawn from the study (these are not the same as the findings)
 - Recommendations for action supported by the findings of the study
 - Recommendations for further research
 - Implications and significance to Agricultural Education &/or Agricultural Extension Education
- References**
- **Appendices**
 - Human subjects approval letter
 - Copy of instrument used
 - Copies of contact letter, e-mail messages

*There may be variation in the specific format for any particular thesis or dissertation but this outline may be helpful as a basic guide. Design of the study will influence the format.