



Structure of the Doctoral Thesis | Content Checklist

Humboldt International University

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INTRODUCTION

The structure of a doctoral thesis can vary depending on the field and the requirements of the institution, but typically includes the following components:

Title Page: The title page includes the title of the thesis, the author's name, the degree for which the thesis is submitted, the name of the institution, and the date of submission.

Abstract: The abstract is a summary of the thesis, typically 250-300 words, which provides an overview of the research question, methods, results, and conclusions.

Table of Contents: The table of contents provides an outline of the thesis, listing the chapters and sections in order.

Introduction: The introduction provides an overview of the research question, background information, and the significance of the research. It also outlines the research objectives and the methodology used to conduct the research.

Literature Review: The literature review provides an analysis and synthesis of previous research in the field of study. It provides the context for the research question and establishes the gap in knowledge that the thesis aims to fill.

Methodology: The methodology chapter describes the methods used to conduct the research, including the research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques.

Results: The results chapter presents the findings of the research, including tables, graphs, and figures to support the data.

Discussion: The discussion chapter interprets the results of the research and relates them to the research question. It also explores the implications of the findings and their contribution to the field of study.

Conclusion: The conclusion summarizes the main findings of the research and highlights their significance. It also outlines the limitations of the research and suggests areas for the future.

research.

References: The references section lists the sources cited in the thesis, using a specific citation style.

Appendices

PHASES OF HIU DEVELOPMENT DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

The doctoral thesis is developed in three main stages:

1. **Dissertation Project:** which covers the first two chapters of the dissertation which covers the first two chapters of the preliminary thesis and constitutes only a conceptual approach to the future dissertation thesis. This phase is developed during the DBD 9012 course.
2. **Dissertation Proposal:** which should include the first two chapters of the dissertation project, but in a more exhaustive and deep way, as well as including the third chapter corresponding to the Research Methodology. This phase is developed within the objectives of the DBD 9013 course.
3. **Dissertation Applied Research:** which will conclude with the final report (thesis or dissertation document). Here the five required chapters of the doctoral work are presented, i.e. those that have been developed preliminary in the Dissertation Project (1 and 2), that have been expanded and deepened in the Proposal (1, 2 and 3), that have been enriched with the chapter Results (4) and Discussion (5). . This phase is developed within the DBD 9014 course.

Each dissertation, or dissertation document, can be different in its specific structure and details. It may depend on the nature of the problem, the methods, the solutions,

or the specific area of knowledge in which it is developed.

The following list is not a strict guide or index for all dissertation papers. Instead, it is an extensive list of all the specified aspects to be covered in each chapter and is expressed as a checklist.

Doctoral students, Chairs, Committee Members and IRB Members should ensure that these aspects are covered in the thesis documents.

PRELIMINARY PAGES

- Title Page
- Dissertation Committee Approval Page
- Declaration of Original Work/Copyright Page
- Dedication(s) Page (optional)
 - Acknowledgment(s) Page (optional)
 - Abstract Page
 - Table of Contents Page
 - List of Figures Page (if applicable)
 - List of Tables Page (if applicable)

CHAPTER 1 | INTRODUCTION

The Introduction chapter of a dissertation includes the following elements:

1. **Background and context:** a summary of the research topic, its importance, and the context in which it is situated. It should briefly explain why the research is important and what previous research has been done in the area, citing the most important authors in the field.
2. **Statement of the research problem:** A clear statement of the research problem being addressed taking into consideration the context and evidence that it is a real problem.
3. **Purpose of the study:** A discussion of the general and specific research purposes to be addressed in the study.
4. **Scope and limitations:** A description of the scope of the research, including specific areas of interest. This section should also outline any limitations or constraints that may affect the study.
5. **Significance and potential contribution:** Preliminary explanation of the impact and potential contribution of research to knowledge.

6. **Definition of Terms:** A definition of the concepts that will be discussed throughout the study citing recognized authors in the field.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **Introduction:** The introduction provides an overview of the research question and the purpose of the literature review.
2. **Search strategy:** This section describes the methods used to identify and select the literature to be reviewed, such as keywords, what information resources were consulted what inclusion/exclusion criteria were used to review the literature.
3. **Summary of existing research:** The literature review provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of existing research in the field. It should include an overview of the major theories, concepts, and issues around study, as well as a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the literature. It should be conducted from the general to the using the terms and definitions already defined in chapter 1.
4. **Identification of gaps:** Based on the analysis of existing research, the literature review should identify gaps in knowledge or understanding that the proposed research is intended to address. This may include identifying areas where more research is needed or highlighting inconsistencies or contradictions in the literature.
5. **Theoretical framework:** The literature review should also provide a theoretical framework to inform the research design and methodology. This may include identifying the key theoretical concepts and models to be used in the study and explaining how they relate to the research question.
6. **Conclusion:** The literature review should synthesize the findings of the analysis and establish the significance of the proposed research.

CHAPTER 3 | METHODOLOGY

1. **Research design and method:** Describe the approach and strategy used in the study. It should explain why the chosen design is appropriate for the research question and provide a justification for any decisions made. The methodological approaches for conducting the research should be explained: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.
2. **Population and sample:** Describe the sampling method used to select study participants. It should explain why the method chosen is appropriate for the research question and provide a justification for any decisions made about the population and sample selected.
3. **Data collection methods and instruments:** Describes the methods used and the instruments used to collect data in the study, such as surveys, interviews, or observations. It should provide a detailed description of the procedures used to apply the data collection instruments and explain how the data were recorded and managed.
4. **Data analysis methods:** Describes the methods used to analyze the data collected in the study. It should explain the approach used to analyze the data, such as statistical or qualitative methods, and justify the decisions made.
5. **Validity and reliability:** Describe the measures taken to ensure the validity and reliability of the research results. It should explain how the data were collected and analyzed and how the research was designed to minimize bias or error.
6. **Ethical considerations:** Describe the ethical considerations involved in the study, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy. It should explain how the study complied with ethical standards and guidelines and provide a rationale for the decisions made.

7. **Limitations:** Describe any limitations or restrictions that may have affected the study, such as time, resources, or access to participants. It should explain how these limitations were addressed and justify the decisions made.

CHAPTER 4 | RESULTS

1. **Introduction:** It should provide an overview of the chapter and explain the purpose of presenting the results. It should also explain the research questions and the theoretical framework used in the study.
2. **Data analysis:** The conclusions of the data analysis are presented. Depending on the type of research, this may involve the presentation of statistical analysis, tables, graphs, or qualitative data. It should also provide a clear description of the data analysis process and the statistical tests used and the interpretation of the test results.
3. **Findings:** This section should present the main findings of the study. It should include a summary of the results of the analysis, a discussion of the significance of the findings, and their relationship to the research question and the theoretical framework.
4. **Limitations:** Limitations or constraints that may have affected the study are stated. It should explain how these limitations were addressed and justify the decisions made.
5. **Conclusions:** This section should summarize the key findings of the study.

CHAPTER 5 | DISCUSSION

- 1.
2. **Introduction:** This section should provide an overview of the chapter and recall the key aspects of the study, including the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, results, and limitations.
- 3.

4. **Interpretation of the results:** The results obtained in the study are presented in an organized manner, relating them sequentially to the previously defined questions.
5. The results of the study should be interpreted considering the research question and the theoretical framework. This may involve offering explanations or theories of the findings, identifying patterns or themes that emerge, and discussing the implications of the findings by comparing the findings to positions found in the literature review and the thesis author's own position.
6. **Main conclusions:** This section should highlight the main conclusions of the study. It should provide a clear and concise description of the most important findings and their significance in relation to the research question and theoretical framework.
7. **Recommendations for future research:** This section should offer suggestions for future research based on the limitations and gaps identified in the study. It should explain how the proposed research could build on the current study and further advance the field.
8. **Contribution to the field:** This section should explain the contribution of the study to the field. It should discuss how the study advances knowledge or theory, and how it can inform practice or policy.
9. **Reflection on the research process:** This section should reflect on the research process and provide insights into the challenges and successes of the study. It may also provide suggestions on how future research might address these challenges.