**Integrated Thesis Guidelines  
University of Waterloo Department of English**

These guidelines are designed to supplement the [Preparation of the Thesis](https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/thesis/preparation-thesis) guidelines provided by the office of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs.

The Integrated Thesis, common in the sciences and engineering, consists primarily of three or more research articles or manuscripts “sandwiched” between an introduction, a conclusion, and other sub-chapters or prefatory material that contextualize the articles and integrate them into the presentation of a cohesive research project.

This model works well for a project that consists of iterative, data-driven work that involves self-contained studies. The model is less applicable for literary critical or theoretical work in the humanities that involves close reading and rhetorical analysis. The following guidelines should help PhD candidates and their supervisory committees decide whether the integrative thesis model is appropriate for a given project. These guidelines will also help clarify how this thesis model is structured.

The thesis should consist of at least three articles that are either published, accepted for publication, or submitted for publication in peer reviewed academic journals or anthologies. Normally, one article would be accepted for publication with a peer-reviewed scholarly venue by the time of defence.

Since the object of the dissertation is to present a whole and coherent project with a lucid and consistent set of goals, the integrated thesis must not consist of a set of disconnected manuscripts “stapled” together without contextualization.

Considered together, the articles should present a cohesive study on a common topic. Candidates may need to edit their work to maintain a consistent voice, avoid redundancies between chapters, and build a coherent and well-integrated collection of arguments. To ensure cohesiveness, the thesis should include the following:

1. a STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTION that describes the candidate’s contribution to each article, especially for those that are jointly authored. In the case of joint-authorship, the candidate must be the primary author, and the nature of the contribution by all authors must be described;
2. a well-developed INTRODUCTION that broadly contextualizes the project within a given field and justifies the methodologies applied in the work;
3. a CONCLUSION that summarizes the findings, places them within a broader context suitable to the project’s audience, and proposes next steps;
4. additional SUBCHAPTERS that may be added at the beginning and/or end of each article to ensure that the dissertation presents a coherent and well-integrated project with a common thread that ties the study together;
5. a comprehensive bibliography that integrates all works cited from the entire thesis.

These elements must all be integrated into a single document (MS – Word, as recommended by [Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Guidelines](https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/thesis/preparation-thesis)) with consecutive page numbers.

Note that some departments require a minimum number of pages for the dissertation. For example, the Department of English requires dissertations of 200 - 400 pages, not including apparatus (e.g., bibliography, notes, appendices). These requirements also apply to the integrated thesis.