Thesis and Dissertation Writing Camp | Orientation
Meet and Greet

1. Your Name
2. Where you are from
3. Your major
4. Your research topic
5. Your goal for attending Writing Camp
Please sign in whenever you arrive each day

Note the time if you leave or take a break

Lunch breaks will be held from noon to 1 pm each day

Lunch will be provided; please let me know if you will be unavailable that day or do not wish to order

Please use the books as much as you need to, but they must be checked out to leave the room
Evaluation Sheets

> You will be asked to complete an evaluation sheet for each workshop you attend

> Evaluation sheets are anonymous but the speakers do see the results

> Feedback, comments, and suggestions are deeply appreciated
If you are interested in using LaTeX for your T/D, email Sharon Matson (matsons@mst.edu) to be added to the Google Group and obtain access to the LaTeX templates.
Being a Model Boot Camper

> Please keep cell phones off (vibrate can still be noisy)

> Please keep conversations to a brief whisper or take them outside

> **Please be on time** out of respect to our fellow boot campers and our guest speakers
Writing your Thesis/Dissertation
What is the purpose of a thesis/dissertation?

- Show your mastery of the subject
- Show your integrity and credibility as a researcher
- Contribute to the growing body of knowledge of your field of research
Terminology

> **Thesis**: written by master’s students

> **Dissertation**: written by PhD students

> **Publication option** (or paper-based): a T/D where the main body is made up of papers written for publication in professional journals

> **Format checking**: a required process done through Graduate Studies to ensure your document meets format standards before final submission

> **Technical editing**: an optional service to check the content of your document for correct grammar and punctuation (before format checking)

> **Graduate Studies Specialist**: advisors in Grad Studies (assigned to students by last name) who also cover format checking
What is the structure of a T/D?

> Front Matter
> Body
> Back Matter
Front Matter

- Title page
- Copyright page
- Abstract
- Acknowledgements
- Table of contents
- List of illustrations
- Nomenclature
Structure (Traditional T/D)

> Body
  • Introduction
  • Literature review
  • Methods*
  • Results and Discussion
  • Conclusions
  • Future work*

> Actual section headings might vary, but topical information should be relatively the same
Structure (Traditional T/D)

> Back Matter
  • Appendices
  • Bibliography
  • Vita
Structure (Publication Option)

> Front Matter
> Section Writing: Introduction
> Paper Writing
  • Paper I
    > Subheadings of Paper I
    > References
  • Paper II
    > Subheadings of Paper II
    > References
  • Conclusions
> Section Writing: Conclusions
> Back Matter
Reference Management Software

> EndNote*
> Mendeley*
> Zotero (open source)
> JabRef (LaTeX)

Note: the university no longer has a site license for EndNote or Mendeley, though Mendeley’s free version is still available
> Plagiarism prevention tool similar to Turnitin

> Highlights text that appears verbatim in its database so you can check your paraphrasing and citations

> Available for free to S&T students through CAFE
Resources

> Graduate studies specialists
  • Advising hours 2:00 to 4:00 in Norwood G-8
  • Last names A: Sharon Matson
  • Last names B-L: Jade Sinnott
  • Last names M-Z: Kathy Wagner

> Grad website: grad.mst.edu
  Deadlines, forms, format checking, professional development

> Technical editing: http://grad.mst.edu/currentstudents/editing/

> Research librarians: Sherry Mahnken

> Copyright questions: Roger Weaver (Scholarly Communications Librarian)

> iThenticate questions: CAFÉ//Instructional Technologies
# Summer 2019 Deadlines

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<tr>
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<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 14</strong></td>
<td>Form 1-A</td>
<td>Form 5-A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 14</strong></td>
<td>Apply for Graduation</td>
<td>Apply for Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 14</strong></td>
<td>Technical Editing (optional)</td>
<td>Technical Editing (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 21</strong></td>
<td>Notify Grad Studies if not</td>
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<td>meeting semester deadlines</td>
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<td><strong>July 2</strong></td>
<td>Form 2</td>
<td>Form 7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>July 8</strong></td>
<td>Final Thesis</td>
<td>Final Dissertation</td>
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Note: All doctoral candidates must email details of defense to Grad Studies Specialist at least one week prior to the defense date.
Goals and the Writing Process

Roundtable discussion
Pre-Assessment Questions

1. Describe your current progress on your T/D

2. What writing challenges or obstacles have you been facing or will likely encounter?

3. What is your priority for attending Writing Camp?

4. What discussion topics would be most beneficial to you during Writing Camp?
Goals for Boot Camp

> Identify your individual writing processes and habits

> Learn and use strategies to become more productive writers

> Create a supportive peer writing community
The Writing Process

- Prewriting
- Drafting
- Revising
- Editing
- Publishing
### What is your Writing Process?

<table>
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<th>Linear</th>
<th>Free</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Move from one step to the next</td>
<td>• Go back and forth between steps</td>
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<td>• Schedule time to write</td>
<td>• Write when the mood strikes</td>
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<td>• Complete one task before starting the next one</td>
<td>• Work on multiple tasks in a single writing session</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Have a clear idea of what you are going to write</td>
<td>• Begin writing and see where it leads</td>
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The Best Process

> Is the one that works for you

> Contains at least some structure

> Allows you to step away for a minute, or a day, if necessary

> Keeps you from becoming overwhelmed, frustrated, or burned out
Tips and Tricks

> Write something every day (even a paragraph)

> Don’t make any other commitments during your writing time

> Set a goal every time you write (something specific that you can measure)

> Stick to a schedule

> Stay motivated by reminding yourself that you can (and will) finish

> When the going gets tough, work on something easy
Don’t be a Perfectionist

> Done is better than perfect

> A bad first draft is an excellent start

> Remember that your thesis/dissertation will not (and should not) be the best thing you ever write

> Look at the big picture and let the details fall into place

> Let yourself make mistakes. Learn from them. Move on.
Stay Motivated

> Remind yourself why this will pay off

> Reward yourself for every goal you reach

> Forgive yourself if you fall short

> Remember that every day is a new chance to do great things
Know Your Resources

> Use your committee’s suggestions to help you make revisions

> Submit your work for technical editing

> Reach out to your advisor when you have questions, concerns, or problems
Think Forward and Plan Backward

> Begin thinking about deadlines that you need to make, and schedule enough time between them

> Be sure to be familiar with the deadlines posted by the Office of Graduate Studies
There are many kinds of obstacles that can keep you from making the progress you want.

Some of them may be directly related to writing: time, motivation, or self doubt.

Some of them may not be related to writing but can stall your progress nonetheless: social obstacles, financial obstacles, or health obstacles.
Setting goals allows you to:

- Focus on what you want to accomplish in your scheduled writing time
- Limit extraneous tasks and writing
- Stay accountable
Set SMART Goals

> Specific

> Measurable

> Attainable

> Relevant

> Time-bound
Be Accountable

> Be willing to stand by your actions and decisions

> Don’t make excuses

> Share your goals with others

> What are some other ways to help yourself be accountable?
Fill out the top portion of the daily log in the morning writing session, and fill out the bottom portion at the end of the afternoon writing session.

We will discuss your progress at the end of the day.
Celebrate every victory along the way, but try to save one big reward for the very end.

Having something to look forward to will help you stay focused and positive when those obstacles (invariably) creep up.

Take a weekend trip, binge-watch a season (or four) of your favorite show, or have a party.

How will you celebrate?