

ABSTRACT

CUTCHINS, ERICA BRAMAN. Rationale for and Relationship of the Thesis and Dissertation Requirement to Research at North Carolina State University. (Under the direction of Dr. Duane Larick).

This guide for the preparation of electronic theses and dissertations at North Carolina State University (NCSU) is designed to assist graduate students, faculty and staff in understanding the requirements and suggestions of the Graduate School for theses and dissertations. A written thesis is required for most Master of Art and Master of Science degrees and a written dissertation for all Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Education degrees at NCSU. The purpose of the thesis or dissertation is to provide an experience in scholarship which will be of enduring value to the student in understanding how new knowledge is acquired and communicated within her/his chosen field. Thus, the thesis or dissertation should provide tangible evidence of the student's development as a scholar and especially her/his capacity to discover and effectively communicate research findings. The thesis or dissertation should also enlarge the body of knowledge in the student's chosen field.

North Carolina State University is one of two Research I Universities of the sixteen constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina. By virtue of this designation and its longstanding tradition of scholarship and research in agriculture and life sciences, design, education and psychology, engineering, natural resources, humanities and social sciences, management, physical and mathematical sciences, textiles, and veterinary medicine, a major mission of NCSU is the discovery and communication of knowledge. One significant means of achieving this important mission is the education of graduate students.