

Department of Anthropology, Washington University
Criteria for Acceptance of Collected Articles for a Dissertation
(see GSAS “Minimal Requirements for Dissertations”)

The doctoral dissertation must constitute an integrated, coherent original work, whose parts are logically connected to each other. Traditionally, the doctoral dissertation would consist of a sequence of integrated chapters that introduce the dissertation research, provide the background and the methods for the research, present and interpret the results, and then tie the various portions of the dissertation together in a concluding chapter, with appropriate citations.

In this context, it has become increasing common, and appropriate, for the dissertation to consist in part of research articles that have been written (and may be published) by the graduate student during the course of the doctoral research. Whether this dissertation format is appropriate for a given subfield should be assessed by the subfield. Furthermore, whether this dissertation format is appropriate for a given student/dissertation (with a subfield that accepts such a dissertation) needs to be determined *a priori* by the student and her/his doctoral committee. Should it be deemed appropriate, 1) it must have an introductory chapter that provides the general theme and the core questions of the dissertation research and that explains the relationship(s) between the constituent chapters and parts, and 2) it must also have a concluding chapter that brings together all of the contained information and ideas expressed in the thesis, relates them to the introduction, and shows how they constitute a coherent whole.

Given that such a dissertation may include previously published material, the candidate must provide complete references for each of the items that have been published. In cases of co-authorship on the original papers, the candidate must include an explanation of the different contributions of the authors to the individual papers and the candidate's role in the original research. Since many published articles are copyrighted, by co-authors and especially academic publishers, it is necessary for the candidate to obtain any necessary copyright clearance for reuse of such articles. It is the candidate's responsibility, in conjunction with the members of the doctoral committee, to assure that all of these requirements have been met.