



Bagwell College of Education

Dissertation Outline Example

- Front Matter
 - Title Page
 - Copyright Notifications (not required)
 - Signature Page
 - Acknowledgements (not required)
 - Dedication (not required)
 - Abstract
 - Table of contents
 - List of tables (only if tables are used)
 - List of figures (only if figures are used)
- Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Statement of the problem
 - Research questions
 - Purpose and significance of study
 - Local context
 - Conceptual framework
 - Review of relevant terms
 - Organization of study
- Chapter 2: Literature Review
 - Introduction
 - Theoretical framework
 - Review of literature strand 1, 2, 3, etc.
 - Summary and implications of literature review
- Chapter 3: Methodology
 - Research questions
 - Research design
 - Setting
 - Overall and Sample Populations

- Access to site (gaining access and entry, obtaining participant participation, exiting, etc.)
- Value of specific methodology
- Instrumentation (reliability and validity)
- Data collection procedures
- Data analysis procedures
- Validity of interpretation (applicability, consistency, trustworthiness)
- Limitations and delimitations
- Ethical considerations
- Chapter 4: Findings
 - Data descriptions
 - Data analysis
 - Results for total sample, subsample 1, subsample 2, across subsamples, etc.
 - Results vis-à-vis initial research questions
- Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Implications
 - Discussion of findings
 - Subsections for findings for each specific research question
 - Limitations of findings
 - Researcher comments (e.g., personal reflections on research methodology; reflections on impact on research site/individuals)
 - Relationship of findings to previous literature
 - Implications for future practice in local context
 - Implications for future research
- Reference List
- Appendices
 - IRB forms (e.g., informed consent forms)
 - Instrumentation