Approaches to Assessment in Higher Education

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# Proposal Outline

This document outlines a possible structure for a 3-paper dissertation. The rationale for this suggestion is that the topic, Approaches to Assessment in Higher Education, lends itself well to approaching the topic from different frameworks, namely, a theoretical framework, a measurement or validation framework, and a framework that is more descriptive of the role and impact of technology on assessment in higher education. In our discussions as a committee, it has become clear that a thorough investigation of approaches to assessment in higher education, *grounded in my expertise*, should include a significant component addressing the role and influence of technology, especially in light of the last two years of emergency remote teaching.

Further advantages of the 3-paper dissertation model include the built-in mentorship in the publication workflow including peer-review, revisions, and communicating with editors and journals. Additionally, graduating with at least one, and ideally three, more peer-reviewed publications is a significant advantage in a competitive academic job market.

UVic Graduate Studies supports this model of dissertation, and Valerie has observed colleagues supervising students in this model. [You can find my notes based on a conversation Valerie had with a student who completed a 3-paper dissertation here.](https://cmadland.github.io/Dendron/notes/4HuJK1YbDiF5JO1p0COda/) [Queen’s supports this model](https://www.queensu.ca/politics/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.polswww/files/files/Graduate/Article-Based%20Dissertation%20Guidelines.pdf), as does [UAlberta](https://www.ualberta.ca/linguistics/media-library/gradforms/paperbaseddissertations.pdf).

## Introduction

### Overview of Assessment

### History of Assessment Literacy and Instruments

### Approaches to Assessment

### Assessment in Higher Ed

### Impact of Technology on Assessment in Higher Ed

## Dissertation Structure

### Overview of Dissertation Papers

* Dissertation papers must be determined by the committee to be *publishable*.
* At UVic, it is typical that one is in publication at the time of the oral defense and the other two should have been submitted for publication.
* The PhD student must be first author on all papers considered for the dissertation, but co-authors are common and can be determined within the committee.
* There are typically 5 chapters in the dissertation, but more may be determined to be necessary.

### Timeline for Dissertation

| Activity | Due Date | Notes |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3-paper model to Committee | Monday, Feb 7/22 |  |
| Paper 1 to Committee | Monday, Mar 7/22 |  |
| Paper 2 Proposal (including completed ethics application) | Monday, Apr 11/22 |  |
| Paper 2 Data Collection and Analysis | Summer 2022 |  |
| Paper 2 to Committee | Monday Aug 1/22 |  |
| Submit Paper 1 and Paper 2 for publication | Monday, Sep 5/22 |  |
| Paper 3 Proposal (including completed ethics application, if needed) | Monday, Oct 3/22 |  |
| Paper 3 Data Collection and Analysis | Fall 2022 |  |
| Paper 3 to Committee | Monday, Feb 6/23 |  |
| Submit Paper 3 for Publication | Monday, Mar 13/23 |  |
| Full Dissertation Draft to Committee | Monday, May 6/23 |  |
| Oral Defense | August 2023 |  |

## 

## Paper 1 - Assessment in higher education: A review of the literature

* **Journal:** [Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education](https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/CAEH20/current)
  + 7000 words including tables, references, captions, footnotes, endnotes
  + Gold Open Access - $3605USD

### Defining Assessment

### Assessment and Measurement

### Assessment Literacy

### Approaches to Assessment

### Assessment in Higher Education

### Impact of Technology on Assessment in Higher Education

## Paper 2 - *Validating the Approaches to Classroom Assessment Inventory (ACAI) in higher education*

* **Journal:** [Assessment, Testing and Applied Measurement (Frontiers in Education)](https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/education/sections/assessment-testing-and-applied-measurement#about)
  + “Free from the restrictions created by print-based page limits, studies in this section need only demonstrate robustness in theory, method, and analysis to be accepted. The significance or importance of a paper will be decided by open-access readership who will hopefully cite and draw on the work in this section.”
  + APC - $950USD

### History and Development of the ACAI

### Overview of Research

### Development of ACAI for Higher Education

### Methods

### Results

### Discussion

### Conclusions and Recommendations

## Paper 3 (Emergent) - *Assessment and technology in higher education*

* **Journal:** [OTESSA Journal](https://journal.otessa.org/index.php/oj)
  + 4000-7000 words
  + APC - None
* Emergent themes based on first two papers, which ***may*** include:
  + technology for adaptive testing, automated item generation, large-scale assessments (NCLEX, PISA, FSA, etc)
  + technology for surveillance or academic integrity (Turnitin, Proctorio, etc)
  + technology to enable new forms of learning- and learner-centred assessments (portfolios, collaboration, version control, learner contributors)
  + ethical applications of technology in assessment

### Introduction

### Literature

### Theoretical / Conceptual Framework

### Research Method

### Analysis

### Findings and Limitations

### Discussion

### Impact on Theory and/or Practice

### Recommendations for Future Research

### Conclusion

### Data Availability

### References

## Conclusions and Recommendations

## References

## Appendices

## Oral Exam Format

* Covers all sections of the completed dissertation
* Responsible for all methods, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in all 3 papers

## Back-up Plan

* Should Paper 3 be abandoned (job opportunity emerges, etc.), then convert papers 1 and 2 into a monograph format.

Notes - indent headings journal: Link suggested outline - line spacing - add links to other 3-paper projects resources - rationale for 3-paper dissertation