

Thesis Writing Workshop

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**Epidemiology, Biostatistics
and Occupational Health**

Objectives

1. To provide information on university and departmental requirements and guidelines related to thesis preparation, submission and examination;
2. To provide basic guidance on organizing the structural elements of a thesis;
3. To assist students in the written expression of their thesis research in a clear and concise way with regard to discipline norms.

Virtually Everything You Need to Know is Here



<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/thesis/thesis-guidelines/preparation>

???

Formatting

See GPS
guidelines [here](#)

Content

“...more in depth guidance on how to outline portions of the thesis that would be necessary in addition to my published papers.”

“...guidance on how to bridge projects into a thesis document that are related, but somewhat different...uncertain about the "cohesion" of the thesis and how this is achieved.”



Supervisor + Committee + You

Doctoral Theses

A thesis for the Doctoral degree must constitute original scholarship and must be a distinct contribution to knowledge.

- It must show familiarity with previous work in the field and must demonstrate ability to plan and carry out research, organize results, and defend the approach and conclusions in a scholarly manner.
- The research presented must meet current standards of the discipline; as well, the thesis must clearly demonstrate how the research advances knowledge in the field.
- Finally, the thesis must be written in compliance with norms for academic and scholarly expression and for publication in the public domain.

"Typical"

- 1 **Introduction**: Write at the end?
- 2 **Literature Review**: if manuscript is part, or all, of this chapter, bridging text is required
- 3 **Study Objectives**: usually 1 or 2 pages; overall, primary, secondary
- 4 **Study Methodology**: more details than provided in the manuscripts
- 5 **Study Results**: if manuscripts, bridging texts are required
- 6 **Discussion**: how does your study add to the evidence base?
- 7 **Conclusion**: main messages based on your study; can include future research/next steps
- 9 **References**: be complete, be consistent, include ALL references

APPENDICES: Manuscripts = from title/abstract page to references, tables and figures!
Formatted for each journal

Manuscript-based Theses


Generally same format as traditional thesis.

Need additional linking text between papers

Chapters should be identical to manuscripts (tables, figures, references)

Should stand as an integrated whole

Examples?

 **McGill** LIBRARY AND COLLECTIONS
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The University's open access institutional repository : articles · conference papers · books · theses

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










A word or phrase:

epidemiology

☒ Contains ☐ Exact ☐ Starts With

Search 'W-All Metadata= epidemiology' in 'General Silo' Collection [Sorted by: Date/Creator]

[Refine](#)

Brief view		Table view	Full view	Sort by: Date	
Records 1- 20 of 911					
Creator	Title	Date	Object	Actions	
1 Austin, Nichole	Assessing the impact of supply-side abortion regulations in the United States	2019		 	
2 Bhatnagar, Sahir	Penalized regression methods for interaction and mixed-effects models with applications to genomic a	2019		 	
3 Biswas, Sharmistha	Predicting time to death after withdrawal of life-sustaining therapy in potential organ donors: a se	2019		 	
4 Brown, Mika	Decellularized extracellular matrix (dECM) microparticle based hydrogels for vocal fold tissue engin	2019		 	
5 Dumitra, Teodora	The relationship between patient activation and surgical outcomes: A pilot study	2019		 	
6 Fakih, Iman	Healthcare-associated bloodstream infections (HABSI) in Quebec after the establishment of BACTOT, a	2019		 	
7 Garfinkle, Richard	Bowel recovery after loop ileostomy closure: Can we predict failure and is there room for interventi	2019		 	
8 Harris, Miriam	The diagnostic accuracy of artificial intelligence based computer programs for analyzing chest x-ray	2019		 	
9 Hoa, Sabrina Anh-Tu	Incidence and progression of interstitial lung disease in systemic sclerosis patients without signif	2019		 	
10 Jahagirdar, Deepa	Investigating food environment disparities using digital supermarket transactions for fruits and veg	2019		 	
11 Johara, Fatema Tui	Evaluating the performance of propensity score matching based approaches in individual-patient data	2019		 	

Intellectual Property

Any issues regarding intellectual property deriving from the research, leading up to the thesis, or in the completed thesis itself should conform to McGill's [Policy on Inventions and Software](#). In addition:

- Students, supervisors, and any other collaborators must have written intellectual property agreements regarding thesis research.
- These agreements must be consistent with the requirements of thesis examination and availability in the public domain.
- Students must be aware of any limitations or approvals required for publication of the research, including the examination and publication of a thesis.

Please Note: When previously published copyrighted material is presented in a thesis, the student must obtain signed permissions/waivers from the publisher(s). Permission must also be obtained from co-authors of manuscripts submitted or in preparation for inclusion in the thesis; an email to that effect should suffice. The individual contributions of the student and other authors must be stated explicitly in the “Preface” to the thesis.

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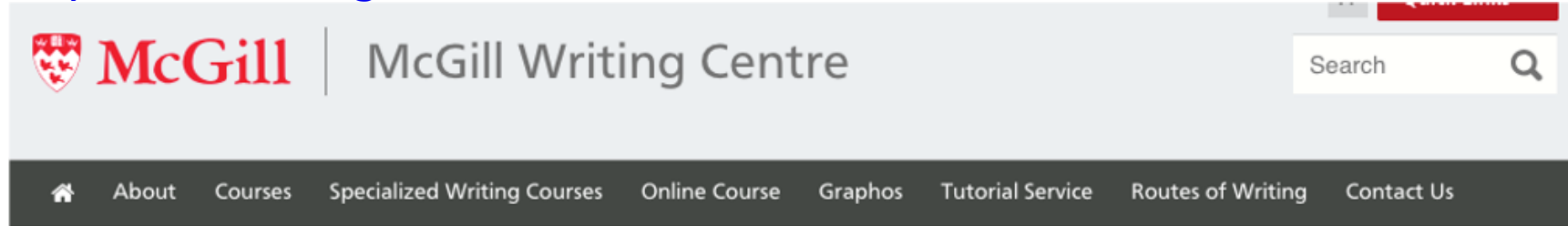
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Need Help Writing?

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>



Graduate courses

MWC graduate-level courses cultivate mastery of oral and written communication for scholarly purposes.

[Find out more](#)



PLACEMENT TESTS

Check the schedule for the [placement tests](#) in 2019.

COMMUNICATING SCIENCE!

Check out our [new elective course](#) for undergrads!

Learn more about the Communicating Science course by reading this [interview with Diane Dechief](#), designer of this course.

THE MCGILL WRITING CENTRE ON FACEBOOK

Welcome to the McGill Writing Centre!

Refine your academic writing skills or learn to write for a specific professional audience with courses offered by the McGill Writing Centre (MWC). As a student in one of the MWC's courses or workshops, you'll learn essential skills, strategies, and techniques that will help you to succeed both at university and in any number of professions.

Graphos

<https://www.mcgill.ca/graphos/>

What is Graphos?

Graphos teaches graduate students and postdocs how to become accomplished scholarly communicators. Across the disciplines, writing is the common practice that all scholars must master. Writing is not simply an afterthought—it is the medium in which we do our intellectual work.



What can Graphos do for you?

Graphos offers different ways for graduate students to become more efficient, precise, and effective scholarly communicators. Some of these are also available to postdoctoral fellows.

Our offerings are designed to address three focal points of the graduate and postdoctoral experience: *research, funding, and publication*.

- **Courses**: 1-credit offerings that complement your degree program.
- **Workshops**: focused events on key writing strategies, conventions, topics, and genres.
- **Peer Writing Groups**: small clusters of advanced graduate students who meet regularly to share and improve works-in-progress.
- **Tutorial Service**: one-on-one sessions to improve your writing skills. (Offered by the McGill Writing Centre)
- **Writing Commons**: a space in which we create conditions for you to write productively in the company of others during thesis retreats and related events.

Graphos is housed within the [McGill Writing Centre](#), the University's central resource for written communication.

LATEST NEWS

- See our [Winter 2019](#) courses and [register](#) in Minerva.
- If any sections are full, email us at graphos@mcgill.ca

Other "helpful" tips

- Begin writing early.
- Write often. Revise often.
- Give sections to your supervisor as you write them...for early feedback and to keep you on track.
- Give sections to a friend, peer,...
- The abstract for the worksheet (to be submitted 2 months prior to submission of the thesis)..need not be the absolute final abstract.
- Check and re-check spelling, grammar, citations...
- Discuss with your supervisor how many manuscripts can be included (minimum 2 for manuscript theses).