

**SHESC Policy on the Submission of Three Papers for a Dissertation**

ASU Graduate Education has a policy on the submission of three papers for a dissertation: “Policy for documents containing separate studies or papers where the student is the author or co-author”. The SHESC policy adds a number of stipulations to the broad ASU policy.

1. The three papers to be submitted must be considered publishable when submitted.
2. The student must identify to the committee the target publication for the papers (for example the journal name or the target edited book). The “publishable” nature of the paper is then evaluated relative to that target publication. The student’s committee must approve the three target venues.
3. There is a long tradition in the social sciences that the dissertation should present the data and/or detailed results from the study in a reasonably comprehensive manner. This can vary by field and focus. A three-paper dissertation should not diverge from this tradition. The student in consultation with the committee must decide on the best way to produce the data in the dissertation, whether or not the target publication allows presentations of detailed data and results. This can be done in a data appendix, as described below.
4. The format of a 3-paper dissertation will be as follows (and it must conform to the Grad Ed specifications). The dissertation should consist of 5 chapters, plus front material; a bibliography; and a data appendix.
  - A. **Front material:** contents, figure and table lists, acknowledgements, abstract, as specified by ASU.
  - B. **Chapter 1: Introduction.** This should introduce the entire dissertation topic and research.
  - C. **Chapters 2-4: Individual research papers.** For each, indicate the journal where the paper is published/submitted. If not yet submitted, indicate the target journal for the paper.
  - D. **Chapter 5: Conclusions.**
  - E. **Bibliography:** Each paper should have its own bibliography, and all references are also gathered in a single bibliography at the end.
  - F. **Data appendix:** Tables, graphics, and other presentations of the basic data presented and analyzed in the dissertation. These data should be archived electronically in a standard professional archive or repository; state the location and information about the archive/repository.