

Professional Paper/Thesis Formatting Guide Master of Agriculture – Teacher Development

The following outline highlights the sections required for the final paper in the Master of Agriculture Teacher Development Concentration

Separate Page - Cover Page (See Graduate School Thesis Manual for Formatting Guidelines)

Separate Page - Abstract

Separate Page -Table of Contents

New Section and Heading - Introduction

- Provide context for the problem

Header - Statement of Problem

Header - Purpose Statement

- research and practical terms – WHY is this work necessary)?
- Research Questions, if applicable.

Header and New Section - Literature Review

Header - Theoretical Framework (optional)

Header – Conceptual Framework (optional)

New Section and Heading – Method

- provide introduction to the method – how was the research conducted

Header - Participants

- Population and sample
- Access and Permissions

Header - Procedures for Data Collection

- Describe instrumentation if applicable
- Reliability, Validity and Confirmability

Header - Data Analysis

New Section and Header - Findings

- Describe what you found, in tables, figures and in paragraph form. Tell the reader what they should see.

Note: At times, the data analysis and findings are hard to separate from the discussion. The research design will determine the collapsing of these.

New Section and Heading: Discussion and conclusion

Heading – Conclusion

- Provide a conclusion to the study/research.

Heading – Implications

- This is the ‘so what’ of your paper. This is where you tell us the impact of this research.

Heading – Recommendations

- This is the ‘now what’ of your paper. What should we do with it now? What do you recommend for use/dissemination, further study?

Separate Page – References

Please use APA 6th Edition for the formatting of your professional paper. An APA Style Guide is provided for your practical use, though the manual will be the ultimate authority on formatting.

Comment [E1]: These two sections require that you tie what you found back into your literature review. Either your findings were consistent with previous literature or not...regardless here is where you let your study confirm or expand on the background information you provided.