

## **Master's Thesis and Dissertation Overview**

This handout provides a sample structure of a thesis or dissertation. For specific requirements, please review theses and dissertations completed in your department and consult with your advisor.

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

- Statement of the problem
- Purpose of the study
- Research questions
- Conceptual/theoretical framework
- Significance of the study
- Overview of the methodology
- Limitations
- Definitions of key terms
- Organization of the document

### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

A purposeful and critical analysis and synthesis of sources pertinent to your study. These may include theoretical articles, literature review articles, reports of empirical research published in academic journals, and reports on professional practices and standards.

### **Chapter 3: Methodology**

- Rationale for the methodology
- Assumptions and biases
- Site selection
- Sample/participant selection
- Data collection procedures
- Trustworthiness
- Limitations/delimitations

### **Chapter 4: Findings**

Report of the study results organized by research questions or themes

### **Chapter 5: Summary and recommendations for future research**

- Summary of significant findings
- Discussion of the results
- Recommendations
- Implications