

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

### DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN TREATISES, DISSERTATIONS, AND THESES

Criterion / Requirement	Honour's Treatise	Master's Treatise	Master's Dissertation	Doctoral Thesis
Topic	Relatively simple	Moderately complex	Complex	Highly complex
Relevance to profession & society	Limited specialisation in a specific area of expertise	Moderate specialisation in a broad area of expertise	Specialisation in a complex area of expertise	High degree of specialisation in a highly complex area of expertise
Nature of research problem	Relatively simple Limited dimensions Limited sub-problems: 2 to 4	Moderately complex Several dimensions 4 to 6 sub-problems	Complex Multiple dimensions 5 to 8 sub-problems	Highly complex Multi-dimensional 6 or more sub-lemas, depending on nature of topic
Scope	Limited i.t.o. subject & geographic area	Moderate i.t.o. subject & / or geographic area	Broad i.t.o. subject & / or geographic area	Extensive i.t.o. subject & / or geographic area
Data requirements & processing	Accessibility Simple data that do not display complex inter-relationships or require complex analytical processes	Accessibility Moderately complex data with inter-relationships that require moderately complex analytical processes	Accessibility Complex data with inter-relationships that require complex analytical processes	Accessibility Highly complex data with complex inter-relationships that require sophisticated analytical processes
Methodology	Qualitative / quantitative / historical / case study / experimental / causal-comparative, as required for topic	Qualitative / quantitative / historical / case study / experimental / causal-comparative, as required for topic	Qualitative / quantitative / historical / case study / experimental / causal-comparative, as required for topic	Qualitative / quantitative / historical / case study / experimental / causal-comparative, as required for topic
Length	12 000 to 15 000 words: 65 – 70 pp.	25 000 to 30 000 words: 120 – 150 pp.	50 000 to 60 000 words: 250 -- 300 pp.	70 000 to 100 000 words: 350 -- 500 pp.
Bibliography	Generic & specific Basic level of existing knowledge of topic & problem should be evident Other requirements of literature survey should be satisfied 25-40 sources	Generic & specific Intermediate level of existing knowledge of topic & problem should be evident Other requirements of literature survey should be satisfied 40-70 sources	Generic & specific Advanced level of existing knowledge of topic & problem should be evident Other requirements of literature survey should be satisfied 70-130 sources	Generic & specific Highly specialized level of existing knowledge of topic & problem should be evident Other requirements of literature survey should be satisfied >130 sources
Format of report	Formal research document	Formal research document	Formal research document	Formal research document
Linguistic / Literary quality	Correct, appropriate to topic & level	Correct, appropriate to topic & level	Correct, appropriate to topic & level	Correct, appropriate to topic & level
Level of research	Basic	Moderate	Complex	Highly complex
Contribution to scientific knowledge	Not a requirement, but serves as enhancement – a basic measure of original thought should be evident	Not a requirement, but serves as enhancement – a reasonable measure of original thought should be evident	Not a requirement, but serves as enhancement – an advanced measure of original thought should be evident	A significant contribution to scientific knowledge; insight into the subject; evidence of a high level of independent & original thought
Ability to conduct & document research	At elementary level	At moderately advanced level	At advanced level	At highly complex level

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Revised Prof JJ Smallwood, June 2004 and June 2007