

There are common tendencies regarding the skills, competencies, length, depth of research, and type of methodology required by supervisors of articles, dissertations, mini-dissertations, and theses. The differences in length between the four documents cannot be reduced just to length; but rather the level of research and writing skills expected from students need to be articulated. It is equally clear that it is not necessarily the topic that is linked to a certain level. Most topics can be tackled at different degrees of intensity, but the methodological and theoretical approaches required, distinguish between the four documents.

Type of Research	MA or PhD by Article	MA Dissertation	MA Mini-Dissertation	PhD Thesis
Length in Pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MA: Includes at least 1 manuscript / publication, either submitted or published in a DHET-accredited journal. Suggested length (excluding bibliography) = 50-100 pages ● PhD: Includes at least 3 manuscripts / publications where at least 1 is published and the remaining manuscripts / publications are submitted to DHET-accredited journals. Suggested length (excluding bibliography) = 120 to 200 pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggested length (excluding bibliography) = 120 to 150 pages (+-38,000 to 50,000 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggested length (excluding bibliography) = 50 to 90 pages (+-16,000 to 29,000 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggested length (excluding bibliography) = 150 to 300 pages (+-50,000 to 100,000 words)
Research Proposal Approved by Dept ResCom & Faculty ResEthicsCom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Length of Proposal +-2,000 to 3,000 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Length of Proposal +-2,000 to 3,000 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Length of Proposal +-1,500 to 2,000 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● Length of Proposal +-3,000 to 3,500 words
Skills & Competencies Demonstrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informed knowledge of critical core of discipline ● Extensive research skills; familiarity of chosen research methodology ● Advanced quantitative and/or qualitative and/or mixed methods ● Exploration of topic and able to position work in scholarly discourse ● Proficiency in academic writing and dissemination of knowledge in peer-reviewed publications ● Generation and application of new theory and/or theory building (PhD) ● Generation of conceptual insights (PhD) ● Ability to work in interdisciplinary fields as necessary (PhD) ● Ability to conduct independent research (PhD) ● Alignment and coherence across all three manuscripts (PhD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informed knowledge of critical core of discipline ● Extensive research skills; familiarity with and control over chosen research methodology ● Advanced quantitative and/or qualitative methods ● Ability to articulate position within theoretical and methodological frameworks of discipline independent research ● In-depth exploration of topic ● Focussed delimitation of topic ● Analysis and synthesis of data ● Expanding on theory and existing information ● Variety of approaches, possibly descriptive, empirical, problem solving and/or argumentative research, depending on discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Informed knowledge of critical core of discipline ● Basic or rudimentary research skills ● Basic knowledge and application of quantitative and/or qualitative methods ● Ability to articulate position within theoretical and methodological frameworks of discipline ● Ability to initiate independent research ● Very specific, focussed delimitation of topic ● Collating and ordering existing information ● Synthesis of data and/or overview ● Presenting and testing theory ● Variety of approaches, possibly mainly descriptive or empirical research, depending on discipline ● Able to position own work in scholarly discourse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comprehensive knowledge of and insight into critical core of discipline ● Sophisticated research capabilities and command of field ● Sophisticated writing and rhetorical skills ● Independent research and contribution to field ● Ability to articulate position within theoretical and methodological frameworks of discipline or field ● Advanced quantitative and/or qualitative methods; discourse analysis, etc ● Ability to work in interdisciplinary fields as necessary ● Generation and application of new theory and/or theory building ● Generation of new knowledge and insights ● Generation of conceptual insights ● Analysis and synthesis of data ● Variety of approaches, mainly argumentative, creative, or problem-solving research, depending on discipline ● Able to position own work in scholarly discourse

Type of Research	MA or PhD by Article	MA Dissertation	MA Mini-Dissertation	PhD Thesis
Original Research / Contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MA: Not Necessarily ● PhD: Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not Necessarily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not Necessarily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes
Literature Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MA: Yes, essential but usually of a limited extent ● PhD: Yes, comprehensive, primary sources required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, essential, in-depth; primary sources required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, essential but usually of limited extent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes, comprehensive, primary sources required
Minimum Number of Sources to be Consulted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not necessarily, depends on discipline, journal author guidelines and topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not necessarily, depends on discipline and topic ● Rough guideline of 120 to 150 sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not necessarily, depends on discipline and topic ● Rough guideline of 30 to 50 sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not necessarily, depends on discipline and topic ● Rough guideline of 300 sources
Externally Examined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes
Need to Pass Independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes
Presentation, Correct Referencing Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes
Article, Dissertation, Mini-Dissertation & Thesis Available in Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes