
SENIOR THESIS GUIDE

Issued by
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences
Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri
May 2006

Final copies of senior theses are due to Phil Skemer by 5 pm on the last day of final exams during the student's final semester. Copies should be in their finished form, on loose, single-sided, 8.5" by 11" sheets of 20-pound weight acid-free white paper.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMAT OF THE THESIS

1. **Style.** The thesis should be written as a typical scientific research paper and must include an abstract of <300 words. Reference format should follow that of a scientific journal in the field of the student's research.

2. **Margins.** When typing the original manuscript, stay well within these margin guides: left, 1.5 inches (this margin is extra-wide because of the binding process); right, 1 inch; top, 1 inch; bottom, 1 inch.

3. **Pagination.** Page numbers should appear centered at the bottom of the page. Margins, listed above, should be outside the page number. The number should be separated from the text by approximately .5 inch.

Every sheet of paper in the manuscript should be numbered except for two: the title page is not numbered (but is counted as the first page; see below), and the optional copyright page is neither numbered nor counted. Letter suffixes (e.g., 10a) may not be used.

Lower case Roman numerals are used for the preliminary pages, including the title page and acknowledgments page. Since the title page is counted but not numbered, "ii" is the first number used and appears on the page after the title and copyright pages. Arabic numerals are used for all other manuscript pages. Begin with page number 1; pages with Arabic numerals should NOT continue numerically (e.g. from xii to 13).

4. All textual material should be **double-spaced**.

5. **Font** should be 11-point or larger.

6. Long **quotations** should be indented and single-spaced .

7. **Footnotes/endnotes** should be single-spaced. Leave a double space between notes.

The following items appear in the thesis in the order given:

8. The thesis should include a **title page** that conforms precisely to the sample and instructions in Appendix A.

9. An **Acknowledgments** page may be included. In the final copy, it should be placed between the title page and the table of contents. The dedication, if there is one, may close the acknowledgments or occupy the next page.

10. The thesis should include a **Table of Contents** if the thesis has subdivisions.

11. If the thesis contains tables, figures, illustrations, etc., a **List of Tables (Figures, Illustrations, etc.)** should be included, immediately following the Table of Contents.

[Note that such pictorial material may be laid out either vertically, like the text of the thesis, or horizontally, with its bottom edge the outside edge of the page.]

12. The thesis may begin with an epigraph (a quotation from someone else's work); if there is an epigraph, it should appear on page 1 of the thesis, with the thesis text beginning on page 2. If the epigraph pertains only to the first chapter, it should appear between the chapter title and the chapter text.

13. The **Abstract** should appear on page 1 of the thesis (if there is no epigraph).

14. The thesis should include a **Works Cited** section at the conclusion of the entire thesis.

15. **Enclosures**, such as paper items that are larger than the standard page but may be folded or non-paper items such as compact disks or computer diskettes, may be bound with your thesis; they will appear in a sleeve inside the back cover.

TITLE PAGE INSTRUCTIONS AND SAMPLE

1. Use your full name.

2. Use the month and year in which your degree is to be awarded. Do not put a comma between the month and the year.

Please note that **degrees are only conferred in December, May, and August**; use one of these three on your title page. Also note that, if you complete your degree requirements in May but will be awarded your degree in August, your title page should say August, not May.

3. Center everything on the page. Everything not discussed above is required to appear just as shown in the sample on the facing page.

**Note* If you are submitting a senior thesis for a "Research Distinction" rather than Senior Honors, please change the title page text to "in fulfillment of the requirements for Distinction in Research."*

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences

**THE SEDIMENTOLOGY AND STRATIGRRAPHY
OF PLEISTOCENE LAKE BONNEVILLE**

by

Grove Karl Gilbert

A thesis presented to the
Department of Earth and Planetary Science
of Washington University in
partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the
degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honors.

May 2006

Saint Louis, Missouri