

Thesis Formatting

Introduction

If you write a Ph.D. thesis, you have to follow the specifications (<http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/doctoral-degree-program/specifications-for-doctoral-dissertation-preparation/>) of the graduate school.

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the graduate school's Doctoral Degree Program page (<http://grad.uconn.edu/current-students/doctoral-degree-program/>).

Note: This webpage has been modified from its original content by David Sidoti, June 2018, to guide ECE students through the dissertation process. Original copyright by the UCONN Math Department.

A thesis in engineering or mathematics is invariably written in some form of LaTeX. It is usually quite a large LaTeX project, so it should not be your first attempt at typesetting. This implies that you should have typed a couple articles, quizzes, homeworks or exams in LaTeX before embarking on this.

The downloaded package is a modified version of a class originally created by tBen Salisbury of the Math Department (UConn '12). It is a minimal option that builds on the familiar book class that comes standard with any LaTeX distribution.

Step 1

Open a text editor (e.g., vim) or a dedicated LaTeX editor (e.g., TeXWorks).

Step 2

You will now have to open some of the files that you downloaded and edit them. Here are descriptions of the set of files prepared by Ben Salisbury, listed (as best as possible) in order of priority.

- **macros.tex** This file is the heart of your personalization. If you have been using LaTeX for your other manuscripts and have developed your own set of user-defined commands, then you should put them in this file. If you are importing text into one of the later files from an older LaTeX file with predefined commands, you will want your personal macros to be loaded already before fumbling with LaTeX error messages.
- **preamble.tex** This file has both editable and non-editable sections. (They have been clearly noted in the file itself). If you use certain packages (i.e., TikZ, hyperref, xypic, graphicx, etc.), you will need to include them in this file. ****Caution: if you do not understand what something does in the editable section, then DO NOT change it. Only make adjustments to those commands for which you are familiar.****
- **thesis.tex** You will be required to input your personal data; i.e., name, degrees, year of graduation, advisory committee, and title. Further down in the file, you'll notice the command `\input{ch1.tex}`. This imports the text from `ch1.tex` to the current position in this file. By copying the command and changing `ch1` to `ch2` (and so on), you will be able to link all chapters of your work to this file. Essentially, this file is the base/foundation file for your thesis. you will want to run `pdflatex` on this file in order to compile the entirety of your thesis. Likewise, you can run `bibtex` to compile the references throughout all chapters included as input here.
- **abstract.tex, acknowledgments.tex, and ch1.tex** should be self-explanatory. The first chapter is now modified in accordance with something more in line with what is needed for graduation in the department Electrical and Computer Engineering since the conditions for graduation are that of primary authorship on certain types of scientific papers. It is good here to have a general introduction that weaves your set of papers together here. You will have more than one article to talk about so a good method is to simply have one chapter per journal article published. Additionally, you will need to list out these prerequisites in an orderly fashion which I (David) have taken the liberty of laying out for you as one example of the base format. You can, of course, modify it to your liking. The first chapter can and should include the organization of your thesis. I have added some general filler text here with introductory statements to detail the scope of this template to get you started.

Good luck!

- **thesis.bib** This is a standard BibTeX file to be used as the source for your bibliography output. This may take some time to learn, so the file comes preloaded with some sample book chapter, journal, and conference proceeding entries. An easy way to create this file is to copy the contents of your .bib files from all articles that you will be including in your thesis and consolidate them into this thesis.bib file. If you don't reuse a lot of reference names, then this part will be easy. If you do reuse and overlap a lot of citation labels, then this part may actually take the majority of your time. This will include all references for all the chapters that your thesis comprises.
- **frontmatter.tex** Simply put: don't touch it. This is the type of stuff that will hold your thesis from getting approved if you don't do it correctly. It deals with formatting, appropriate numeration, pagination, etc. Only modify if you need it but be careful. I (David) have taken care in creating a generalized style that will work no matter length of abstract and table of contents.

Step 3

Write your thesis. Please check the grad website for further information on what is needed w.r.t. submission and oral defense. At the time of this update, you need a set number of weeks prior to announcing your oral defense so you can add it to the University calendar, etc. With regard to thesis preparation and submission, you will need one of the pages signed by your committee and submitted to the grad school along with your digital submission of your thesis (to be done via the UCONN Digital Commons library website).

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