



Structure of Your Thesis

Executive Doctorate in
Professional Leadership for
Health Science Education

Overview

Each University states how many chapters a thesis/dissertation should have.

However, there are five main parts that are common.

They are:

1. Introduction
2. Literature review
3. Methodology
4. Findings
5. Discussion, conclusions, and recommendations

Chapter 1: Introduction

Provides a precise picture of what the thesis is about.

Contains:

- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Research Questions
- Context for the Study
- Significance of the Problem
- Educational Value of the Study
- Definitions
- Limitations of the Study
- Summary (and transition to next chapter)

Importance of Chapter 1

Chapter 1 is critical.

It justifies:

- what should be studied,
- why it should be studied,
- Who has studied the problem,
- how you will study it, and
- what you expect to achieve.

Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

- Discusses the theories, models, approaches, and prior research that serve as a foundation of the study
- Informs the reader of what is known so as to explore the unknown.

Chapter 3: Methodology

- States the research questions and any information relevant to explain them.
- Explains variables.
- Explains measures including scales and subscales.
- Describes the research design:
 - Participants
 - Intervention (treatment)
 - Data collection procedures
 - Data analysis procedures

Chapter 4: Findings/Results

- Reviews problem and research questions.
- Reviews methodological approach.
- Describes results related to each research question.
- Does not interpret results.

Chapter 5: Discussion and

- Provides an overview of the problem and research questions.
- Discusses the results of the research and provides meaning.
- Explains any limitations of the study.
- Describes implications:
 - Implications for future research
 - Implications for practice
 - Implications for education and training

