

GSE DISSERTATION STANDARDS

Content and Composition

- 1 The topic is stated clearly and relevant background literature reviewed and evaluated.
- 2 The research question(s) are stated clearly.
- 3 The contribution and importance of the research question(s) with respect to relevant literature, theory, policy, and/or practice are articulated in a convincing manner.
- 4 The research plan and methods are appropriate and adequate to study the research question(s) posed, and are explicitly described.
- 5 The research plan and methods are implemented effectively.
- 6 The research produced trustworthy evidence that bears on the research question(s).
- 7 The conclusions follow convincingly from the evidence and its interpretation.
- 8 The dissertation manuscript is coherent, well structured, clearly written and is in accordance with the specifications of a standard style manual regarding grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.
- 9 With appropriate revisions, the dissertation is of sufficient quality to be publishable in an academic or practice-oriented journal that is peer reviewed.

Formatting

- 1 The Table of Contents is accurate in terms of headings and page numbers.
- 2 Citations and the bibliographic/reference section are formatted in accordance with a standard style manual.
- 3 The title page, pagination, abstract, notes, bibliography, tables, and figures are formatted in accordance with the University of Pennsylvania Doctoral Dissertation Manual.