

**A Table summarizing the main Differences
between Independent Study, Thesis, and Dissertation**

	Independent Study	Thesis	Dissertation
Purpose	Self-directed study on a specific topic or project.	Research project for a master's degree.	Research project for a doctoral degree.
Academic Level	Can be at the undergraduate or graduate level.	Typically at the master's level.	Typically at the doctoral level.
Scope	Narrow focus on a specific subject or question.	Broader scope, delving into a specific research area.	Extensive and comprehensive research on an original topic.
Structure	Flexible structure determined by the student and advisor.	Typically includes chapters such as introduction, literature review, methodology, results, and conclusion.	Typically includes chapters such as introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion.
Length	Can vary depending on the institution's requirements.	Usually ranges from 50-100 pages.	Usually ranges from 150-300 pages.
Originality	Emphasizes personal exploration and original thought.	Requires original contribution to existing knowledge in the field.	Requires significant original research and contribution to the field.
Assessment	Evaluated based on the quality and depth of the study.	Assessed based on the quality of research, analysis, and argumentation.	Assessed based on the originality, significance, and contribution to the field.
Degree Requirement	May or may not be a required component for graduation.	Required for the completion of a master's degree.	Required for the completion of a doctoral degree.
Publication Potential	Limited publication potential.	Some theses may be published in academic journals.	Dissertations often have higher potential for

			publication in academic journals.
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