

[INSERT TITLE]

by

[INSERT STUDENT NAME]

A (thesis or dissertation)

submitted in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering

Boise State University

[INSERT DATE]

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DEDICATION

THIS SECTION IS OPTIONAL. The dedication section is where the author can acknowledge their appreciation and respect for significant individuals in the writer's life (e.g. family members, friends, spouse etc.). This section is personal and may be unrelated to the topic of the dissertation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The acknowledgements recognize individuals who have significantly supported your scholarly efforts as they relate to the dissertation (e.g. major advisor, committee members, faculty members etc.). This would include any faculty and student colleagues that substantially contributed to the presented research (concisely state their contributions). Please also acknowledge any funding sources that supported your work. This section can be multiple paragraphs.

ABSTRACT

Your abstract is a concise, self-contained statement that summarizes your work as a whole. It is an original document that highlights the purpose, key methods, main outcomes, and overall significance of your research. Limit your abstract to one page.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BSU	Boise State University
GC	Graduate College
TDC	Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator
AEAFUIGCTDT	An Example Abbreviation for Use in the Graduate College Thesis and Dissertation Template

CHAPTER ONE: OBJECTIVE

You can think of the first, introductory chapter as the Specific Aims or Project Summary from an NIH or NSF proposal without the 1-page limit. This objective chapter will motivate your research and provide the conceptual framework or master plan (goals and how they relate) for the dissertation research without lots of detail. A good introductory chapter will include the following information:

- Current scientific knowledge.
- Current gap in scientific knowledge
- Overarching project objective or purpose
- Specific aims and hypotheses (and sub-hypotheses, if necessary) that were tested.
- How aims/objectives relate to each other.

Use chapter numbers to help the reader link each aim/objective to a specific chapter (i.e. publication).

CHAPTER TWO: BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

The second chapter is a thorough review of the relevant literature that provides the current state of scientific knowledge in the research area and the knowledge gap the proposed research will fill.

A good second chapter will provide a comprehensive and critical review of previous work on the research topic, it will discuss relevant methods and findings, explain the explicit need driving the proposal (e.g. what is the consequence of not addressing), and provide the layman reader with the rudimentary knowledge needed to comprehend and appreciate subsequent chapters.

Examples of format requirements for figures, tables, pictures etc. are available on the [Graduate College web page](#).

CHAPTER THREE: TITLE OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE¹

Abstract

Include the full published content for this paper (e.g. abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion). Any supplemental material you'd like to include can be added to the dissertation Appendix.

(Follow this format for subsequent chapters that represent original research articles you co-authored related to your dissertation research.)

(IMPORTANT: If your research protocol required approval from compliance or regulatory committees, you must include a statement that the protocol was approved and provide the protocol number).

¹As a footnote on the first page of this chapter, include the full citation with all co-authors. Mark the senior/corresponding author with an *. Note: Once published, you will need to request reprint permission from the publishing journal.

CHAPTER <ENTER>: PUBLICATIONS

This chapter will clearly list any journal articles associated with your dissertation research. These articles must satisfy the BME program's three-publication rule (see handbook). Include a bibliography of these original research articles using [APA format](#). Make sure you include the names of all co-authors. Clearly state whether the paper is 'published', 'accepted', 'in-review', or 'in-preparation'. If 'published', add a hyperlink to the published paper. If 'accepted', include a screenshot of the acceptance notification from the journal editor. If 'in-review', state date of submission, and if the paper was resubmitted after an initial decision, state the editor decision(s) (e.g., "major revision", "minor revision" etc.)

- <Add Paper #1>
- <Add Paper #2>
- <Add Paper #3>
- <Add additional papers using a new bullet for each paper>

CHAPTER <ENTER>: CONCLUSIONS

Summary

Start this subsection by summarizing the body of your work *as a whole*. After this summary paragraph(s), create a concise bulleted list of up to 10 of the most significant outcomes from your dissertation work. Each bullet can be one or multiple sentences. These bullets are the primary take home messages from your research!

Limitations

Discuss major limitations that existed in your work, the implications of these limitations, and how these limitations could potentially be overcome in the future.

Challenges

Describe scientific challenges you overcame to complete your dissertation research. These challenges may be technical, conceptual, theoretical etc. This is your chance to give the reader an understanding of the problems you encountered when completing your dissertation work, and the inspiration, innovation, and/or perspiration needed to resolve these problems. What do you know now that you wish you knew when you started your dissertation work?

Future Work

Describe the future work that you'd recommend for advancing your research (or research area) beyond the dissertation. This is your chance to apply your expertise by demonstrating your ability to identify new research horizons.

IMPORTANT: In addition to the chapters and subsections provided in this template, your advisor and/or supervisory committee may have additional chapters or subsections that they'd like you to include in your dissertation. Make sure you have a discussion with them about their expectations.

If you and your major advisor would like to remove chapters and subsections from this template, please contact the BME director via email to request permission (provide explanation and justification).

REFERENCES

Author, Imaginary. 2011. *This Is an Example Source*. Boise: Boise State University Publishing.

Doe, John. 1903. *Imaginary Text*. London: Red Herring Press.

APPENDIX A

Title of Appendix A

Students can provide additional relevant information in the Appendices. For example, the advisor and/or supervisory committee may want the student to include supplementary material from the original research articles (e.g. data). Note: the BME program requires you to include any documents showing research approvals (IRB, IBC, etc.).

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