



Additional components, including those discussed in this guide, may be included at the discretion of your supervisory committee.

Paper

The two copies for the Library Archives must be bound and printed or photocopied onto archival quality white paper. The paper must be 20 pound weight, acid-free, and of standard 8½ by 11 inch size. Acid-free paper deteriorates less over time and is thus required for the archives. (Simply use a good quality xerographic paper from your local office supplies store!)

Margins

The following minimum margins must be observed:

Top: 1 inch *except* the first page of each chapter — 2 inch top

Bottom: 1 inch (page number bottom center, rests on 1" mark)

Left: 1½ inch (this allows for proper binding.)

Right: 1 inch (unjustified)

All printed matter, including page numbers, tables, and appendices must be contained within the margins and printed on one side of the page.

Page Numbering

The title page is **not counted** or numbered.

The copyright page is **not counted** or numbered.

The signature page is **not counted** or numbered.

The fair use and duplication page is **not counted** and not numbered.

All preliminary pages that follow (beginning with the abstract page) are counted and numbered with lower case Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, v, etc.).

For chapters, page 1 is the first page of the Introduction and is numbered "1" at the bottom center of this page. The remainder of the document is numbered with Arabic

numerals. All subsequent major sections, such as first pages of chapters or appendices, are numbered with the centered number at the bottom. Numbering is consecutive through references and appendices.

Headings

The *VSU Guide* asks for a full-capped title for each chapter; no bold face type. Remember—the first page of each chapter has a 2 inch top margin. One blank line falls between the heading, the capitalized title, and the beginning paragraph. An example of Chapter I follows:

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Line Spacing

The body of the text must be double-spaced. (Do not allow extra lines between paragraphs; do not use “multiple” as the paragraph line spacing – change to single or double.) Additional line spaces may be used to set off headings, tables and figures. Long quotations, formulas, endnotes, etc. are to follow the spacing indicated in the style manual approved by your program. For APA, this rule also refers to the reference list. Quotations of more than 40 words should be indented five spaces from the left and five spaces from the right and single-spaced.

Word Processing

See APA, MLA, Chicago, or APSA manuals for examples of acceptable type styles. Times New Roman is recommended as the font. The font should be at least 10 point with 12 point being preferred for readability. Dot matrix print, script, or other nonstandard typefaces are acceptable in the appendices of the final manuscript only. All other portions must be in a standard font or typeface. If pen work (drawing) is needed, use black permanent drawing ink. Any freehand material must look professional—consider hiring a specialist to do this.

Consistency

Be sure that your paper looks the same from section to section. Different margins, different heading formats, and different fonts are very apparent and detract from the presentation of your work (and are not acceptable). Take the time to look over the paper from beginning to end and notice things that don't match or line up. As mentioned in the capitalization section, be consistent in your use of upper case letters and abbreviations. There may be several correct ways to refer to the title or place or item, but once you select one, use it throughout your paper.

Redundancy

The nature of a research document at this level requires a certain level of restatement of your purpose, problem, and method. However, try to paraphrase enough to avoid making the redundancy an exact duplicate of previously presented material. Some duplication is OK — but after the third

graphs and the like should all appear with some text included on these pages. If you need to reduce the table or figure, make sure the page number appears in the proper place on the page, e.g., like all the other pages. Also, the title of the chart or graph should appear in the regular size font being used for the rest of the document.

No materials may be pasted into the document. If you have such items, paste each into place and then photocopy the page. This rule applies to photographs. If you need to include photographs, prepare them in black and white half-tone exposure and photocopy the item into the text. Documents that contain pasted items will not be accepted.

Pockets can be used for oversize maps or drawings. Fold and insert in appendices. If possible, reducing these to standard 8.5 x 11 inches and including them in the text is preferred. Some style manuals allow you to place graphics in an appendix rather than in the text. Refer to the manual