

Chapter 1

Introduction

1. Definition of thesis

Thesis means a complete written text containing the result of research on an approved topic that has been analyzed and composed systematically by Graduate students; often required for the completion of Master Degree Plan A or Doctoral Degree.

2. Significance of thesis

2.1 A product exhibiting ability and diligence of the student

A Master Degree's education focuses on the ability of the graduate to acquire new knowledge, continuously pursue academic issues, and appropriately analyze and find a solution in accordance with academic principles. Therefore, a thesis demonstrates students' ability and diligence in completion of the educational aspects above.

2.2 A necessary condition for completion of degree

According to the Graduate Program standards, Master Degree and Doctoral Degree students must complete a thesis. It is therefore not possible to complete degree without thesis completion.

2.3 An index of educational attainment of the Graduate

Once thesis is the index of educational quality of graduate; the quality thesis which, for example, provides new knowledge that benefits the academic community or may be applied to societal problems, or being accepted for publication in academic journals or presentation at conferences; such that the graduate's work may gain acceptance in the particular academic field to which it is relevant.

3. Qualities of a good thesis

A good thesis is a certificate of a writer's ability and achievement. The quality of the content is primarily based on correctness and academic value. The thesis presentation should also be high quality. The following components indicate the quality of thesis, both in terms of presentation and format of the written text.

3.1 Text Format

The submitted thesis should be durable with an outer cover and paper made from high-quality and standard material. It should also be bound smoothly with an uneven border.

3.2 Length

A good thesis should have an appropriate length which is not too long nor too short, and represent the ability of the writer through organizing efficient language use while helping the reader to understand well. Most universities assign a thesis length by word-count such as not more than 20,000 words for Master Degree's English thesis and not more than 80,000 words for the Doctoral Degree (not including the appendix, which should not be longer than content)

3.3 Language

Formal language should be used for both Thai and English medium theses. Avoid spoken language conventions such as slang or idioms. Students should correctly use words, phrases and sentences based on the grammar of the language in which the thesis is written. In case uncertainty, the students should check the standard dictionary or seek advice from an expert for correct usage.

3.4 Accuracy of information and typing

The dependability of a thesis is based on the accuracy of both information and typing. The student is responsible for providing accurate information and checking the correctness of all words and numbers.

4. What the student should know about writing a thesis

4.1 Regulations governing thesis writing and submission

Student should be aware of the criteria, announcements, and regulations of the university regarding thesis writing and submission prior to the deadline. These regulations and any announcements can be found in the Regulations of Khon Kaen University on Graduate Education Level and in this Thesis Guidebook.

4.2 Thesis advisor

4.2.1 Choosing a thesis advisor

Students must meet advisor, the Head of the Department, or Program Administrator to discuss research problem and methodology that could result in the topic selection. The student may choose an advisor from among teachers who are experts or otherwise specifically concentrate on the chosen content area or in accordance with discretion of each program.

4.2.2 Discussion

Student should often discuss and report their research progress to their advisor. Consultations with the advisor should be scheduled once or twice a month, for example.

4.3 Morals and Ethics of research

4.3.1 Researcher's ethics

Since the thesis involves research, it is by nature a suggestive proposition involving information resulting from research and must relate with people or organizations throughout the course of the study. Students should familiarize themselves with researcher's ethics in accordance with the announcement of the National Research Council of Thailand's "Researcher Codes of Ethics" as ethical guidelines for researchers.

4.3.2 Ethical considerations in research involving human subjects

Human research means any study affecting a human's physical body, mind, and behaviour, either directly or indirectly. Realizing the importance of human research, Khon Kaen University has appointed the Khon Kaen University Ethics Committee for Human Research, and any student who intends to do human research must ask for permission through the Research Section of Khon Kaen University before initiating research. For further details, refer to <http://eckku.kku.ac.th/> and <http://ora.kku.ac.th/>

4.3.3 Ethical considerations in research involving animal subjects

Khon Kaen University realizes the importance of animal research in addition to human research. Therefore, animal researchers should act in accordance with the University's principles based on moral, ethic, humanity, and academic considerations. For further details, refer to <http://eckku.kku.ac.th/> and <http://ora.kku.ac.th/>