



# What is the difference between a thesis and a dissertation.aa

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A dissertation, or a thesis, is a document submitted supporting candidature for an academic degree or professional qualification presenting the author's research and findings.

The terms thesis and [dissertation](#) are commonly used interchangeably in everyday language, but it is generally understood that a thesis refers to bachelor/undergraduate and master academic work, while a dissertation is named for doctorate work.

In some contexts, the word thesis or cognate is used for part of a bachelor's or master's course, while a dissertation is normally applied to a doctorate.

A thesis by publication is a form of compilation thesis, which is a doctoral dissertation that is a collection of research papers with an introductory section consisting of summary chapters.

It comprises already-published journal articles, conference papers, book chapters, and occasionally, not-yet-published manuscripts.

Another form of compilation thesis is the essay thesis, which is composed of previously unpublished independent essays.

In the United States, "All but [dissertation](#)" (ABD) is a term identifying a stage in the process of obtaining a research doctorate.

In typical usage of the term, the ABD graduate student has completed the required preparatory coursework and passed the required preliminary, comprehensive, and doctoral qualifying examinations (or Ph.D. candidacy examination).

After the graduate student successfully passes this examination stage, they are referred to as a Ph.D. candidate.

The informal ABD designation indicates that the graduate student has met all program requirements except for writing the dissertation (or thesis) and the final defense at the end of a Ph.D. program.

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