



## SSM Research Center Abstract Guidelines for Thesis & Dissertation<sup>1</sup>

### ABSTRACT FORM & STYLE

- **The abstract cannot exceed one typed page.**
- Abstracts do not have paragraphs; the text is 1 long paragraph with no indentation.
- Maintain the scholarly language used throughout the thesis/dissertation.
- Keep the abstract concise, accurate, and readable. Use correct English.
- Ensure each sentence adds value to the reader's understanding of the research.
- Use the full name of any acronym and include the acronym in parentheses; you can thereafter refer to the acronym.
- Do not include references or citations in the abstract.
- Per APA 7 style, use Arabic numerals 10 or greater in the abstract, write out numbers smaller than 10. Also, write it out if it is at the start of a sentence. Units of measurement (regardless of the number; for example 12 hrs.) should be Arabic numerals.

### ABSTRACT CONTENT

Each area usually needs one sentence, *except for methodology and results—they may take a few.*

**1-Background/General Introduction of the Issue** – optional; may begin with the research problem.

**2-Research Problem and Why It's Important** – must be clear; who cares if the problem is solved?

**3-Purpose (Aim) or Rationale**

**4-Theoretical Foundations** – name of theory OR description of the conceptual framework, if appropriate.

**6-Methodology and Overall Design** – must be specific; include sample size and main inclusion criteria.

**7-Data Analysis Procedures** – how data were analyzed to address the research questions. For a mixed-methods study, you need to specify the methods for quantitative and qualitative data separately.

**8- Key Results/Conclusions/Recommendations** – must align with purpose/RQs. Ideally a strong take-home message at the end.

**OVERALL** – Alignment (along the logical progression from problem=>research questions=>method=>results)

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<sup>1</sup> You can also check APA Manual at: <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/abstract-keywords-guide.pdf>