# Three-Paper Dissertation Option: A Suggested Guide

If the student chooses the three-paper dissertation option then the three papers should meet the following criteria:

1. Papers should be the result of the research work proposed and approved at the student’s prospectus defense. Any changes to the scope and/or design of that research work must be approved by the student’s doctoral supervisory committee.

2. Papers developed and completed as dissertation work must be of publishable quality. This criterion may be met through publication, acceptance for publication, or by being judged as publishable by the student’s doctoral supervisory committee.

3. The three papers must be related to each other. The judgement of whether the three papers are sufficiently related rests with the student’s doctoral supervisory committee.

## Prospectus

Prospectus for a three-paper dissertation can include the following content:

Introduction. This part introduces the three papers, discuss how they are related, and what they contribute to addressing the research problem.

Study Proposals. This part describes the literature, the theoretical framework(s), and the designs and limitations of the three papers.

Timeline. The expected timeline for completion of each study and the dissertation as a whole

## Dissertation

The three-paper dissertation is a single document. In addition to the suggested outline provided below, all students are advised to familiarize themselves with and follow the *Guidelines and Requirements for Electronic Theses, Treatises and Dissertations* (<https://gradschool.fsu.edu/academics-research/thesis-treatise-and-dissertation/formatting-guidelines-and-templates>) as required by the University. The three-paper dissertation can include the following content:

**Abstract**

**Introduction**. This part can introduce the three papers, discuss how they are related, and what they contribute to addressing the research problem.

**Paper 1**

**Paper 2.**

**Paper 3.**

**Conclusion**. This chapter compares and contrasts the three papers, summarizes what was learned, and outlines directions for future research.

**Comprehensive References List**