

# Procedures for Fulfillment of the AED Economics Doctoral Research Manuscript Requirement

## Introduction

Each student is required to complete a sole-authored research manuscript that meets high standards of scholarship and exposition. The completed research manuscript must be submitted by electronic mail to the Director of Graduate Programs by no later than seven calendar days after the last day of final examinations in the spring semester in the second year. The deadline is firm and can be changed only by prior approval of the AED Economics Director of Graduate Programs.

## Objective

The Research Manuscript Requirement is designed to develop a PhD student's ability to conduct and communicate original, independent research in a manner appropriate for scholarly publication and presentation. Fulfilling the requirement verifies that a student is qualified to conduct scholarly research on the frontiers of economics and helps prepare the student for the research, writing, and oral defense efforts required to successfully complete a doctoral dissertation.

## Content

The manuscript must address a question of scholarly significance in economics, ideally in the student's area of specialization. The manuscript should clearly pose the researchable question, appropriately place it within the relevant scholarly literature, and make substantive progress towards answering the question. The student may use whatever analytical tools are most appropriate to answer the question including, but not limited to, theoretical, econometric, numerical, and case-study methods. The manuscript must be free of glaring technical and expository mistakes.

## Originality

The manuscript must be authored exclusively by the student and must be based on original research independently conducted by the student. The manuscript may be based on graduate coursework undertaken at The Ohio State University or work conducted as a research assistant while at the Ohio State University, but must not be based on work conducted before entering the AED Economics PhD program. The student's Faculty Adviser may offer broad guidance in preparation of the manuscript, but may not contribute to the writing of the manuscript or offer specific editorial assistance. The manuscript must represent an independent effort on the part of the student and must include the following signed statement on the title page:

"This manuscript presents original research conducted independently by me, after joining the AED Economics PhD program, specifically in satisfaction of the AED Economics Research Manuscript Requirement."

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Signature

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Date

## Format

The manuscript must be written in the form of a conventional journal article and will contain the following separate sections: a title page, a one page abstract, a body not to exceed 25 pages, and references. The proposal must be clear, readily legible, and conform to the following requirements: a) the letters must not be smaller than 12 point; b) the proposal must be double spaced; and c) margins, in all directions, must be at least 1 inch. Visual materials, including tables, charts, graphs, maps, and photographs must be included in the body of the manuscript and are subject to the 25-page limit. Students must follow accepted scholarly practices in citing source materials relied upon when preparing the manuscript. Reference citations must conform to *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* guidelines. There is no page limit for the references.

## Evaluation

The manuscript must meet standards comparable to those used to evaluate contributed papers to major scholarly meetings though it does not have to be of publishable quality. The manuscript may represent only a modest departure from published work, but it must be well conceived, justified, and communicated.

A Research Manuscript Evaluation Committee consisting of three AEDE Economics Graduate Faculty members will be appointed by the AED Economics Director of Graduate Programs to evaluate all submitted research manuscripts. The Committee will evaluate the manuscript, optionally with the input of outside reviewers drawn from the faculty or advanced PhD students, and confer a grade of “satisfactory” or “revise and resubmit”. A manuscript judged to require revision will be returned by the Committee to the student with review comments. The student will be required to address the review comments and submit a revised manuscript to the Committee by no later than the first Monday in August. The Committee will evaluate the revised manuscript and, within two weeks of submission, confer a grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory. A student who receives an unsatisfactory evaluation on the revised manuscript will be automatically dismissed from the program. The evaluation committee will confer a “Best Research Manuscript by a Second-Year PhD Student” award to not more than one submitted manuscript.