

Publishing Guidance for Recent Doctoral Graduates: Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers from the Editors

Because Walden University is a doctorate-granting institution that supports the research efforts of the various disciplines represented within the university, our journal editors get many inquiries from recent graduates and people new to the publishing process. As a result, we have put together this short FAQ document for new researchers about submitting manuscripts based on their doctoral capstone (dissertation or doctoral study), whether to one of our journals or to another peer-reviewed outlet.

Is it okay to publish the findings from my doctoral capstone in a journal?

Yes, we encourage you to do so! Although scholars do not like data and findings to be republished and publishers want to publish original work, they make an exception for doctoral research because that “research story” is not formatted as an article and it has not been subjected to a strict peer-review process.

Note: If your research used data obtained from a third party, please be sure to review the requirements of your data-use agreement, as the data owner may want to review any proposed publications before they are submitted.

Should I check with a journal editor before submitting a manuscript based on my doctoral capstone?

No, and you should certainly *not* send an editor your entire capstone document and ask if she/he thinks there’s something worth publishing in it (as the answer is almost always yes). You are responsible for determining the specific content for a manuscript and whether a particular journal is the best fit for it. Editors want to see the actual manuscript, not a tale about something you might write.

Should I list my supervisory committee as coauthors?

It depends. You are not required to do so. Their work on your doctoral capstone is done. If one or more of your former committee members help you write a subsequent manuscript to submit for review, however, then listing that member as a coauthor may be very appropriate. Otherwise, the better strategy is for you to mention your committee in the acknowledgements, if the journal allows for it. See our related FAQ [Intellectual Property and Copyright for Doctoral Students](#) for more guidance on this matter.

Should Walden graduates submit their manuscripts to a Walden journal?

Again, it depends. Walden graduates are neither expected to submit to nor guaranteed a publication in one of our journals. All manuscripts are subjected to a masked review, so no reviewer would know this fact. If the content of your manuscript aligns with the publishing goals of a Walden journal, which you can find on their respective sites, then you could consider one of ours.

Might my manuscript get rejected even though my capstone was approved?

Yes. You might be surprised to know that most reputable outlets publish less than 20% of the manuscripts submitted, including our journals. The reasons for rejection often have little to do with the quality of the underlying research project, especially doctoral capstones. One common reason for rejection is misalignment of the topic to the goals of the journal, which happens more often than you might think (so do your homework!). Another reason is how effectively the more focused “research story” is told in a

manuscript format. Remember, your manuscript will be the first time the editor and reviewers have seen your research.

What is desk rejection?

All editors make an initial evaluation of a manuscript before sending it out for review, what is sometimes called a *desk review*. Generally, about one third of manuscripts are rejected at this point, often due to misalignment with the journal's aims and goals. So, be sure to do your research on the journal to which you plan to submit your research!

You keep using manuscript and article. What is the difference?

Many journals refer to the submitted, scholarly document as a *manuscript*. After a manuscript has successfully made it through peer review and the editorial processes, it can go into publication, at which point it is considered an *article*.

More Questions?

In spite of what you may have heard, most journal editors—especially the ones at Walden—view their role as an opportunity to support and guide the next generation of authors. If you have a question about publishing in a particular journal, please reach out to that editor *after* you have read the information on their site. Usually, you can find the editor's contact information on the landing page of any journal.

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