

(Adapted from: *Health Studies and Gerontology Graduate Student Handbook*, University of Waterloo)

1. Title of Dissertation

- a) Is the title clear, simple to follow and self-explanatory?
- b) Have you included the department, month and date on your title page?

2. Abstract (optional for prospectus; consult your supervisor)

3. Table of Contents (*A Table of Tables* and *Table of Figures* may also be included, as appropriate)

- a) Have you included the heading and page number of all major sections?

4. Introduction and Overview (recommend: 1 – 3 pages)

The purpose of this section is to introduce the topic, generate interest in reading the prospectus and provide a rationale for the research. Describe the research statement, summarize selected literature and state the purpose of the study.

- a) Have you oriented the reader to the main theme of the dissertation through a general introduction?
- b) Have you created interest in the topic of the dissertation?
- c) Have you given a brief overview of the main sections and ideas of the prospectus?
- d) Have you written a transition paragraph from the introduction to the literature review?

5. Theoretical Section (recommend: 5 – 15 pages, depending on dissertation style and supervisor)

This section will provide the conceptual and theoretical rationale for your research. The extent of the theoretical section depends on the type of dissertation and research questions being addressed.

- a) Have you covered the relevant theory with a critical perspective?
- b) Have you explained how it is relevant to your study?
- c) Does the theory inform your study?
- d) Does your theory rationalize your hypothesis?



