

McGrath Group Dissertation Guidelines (Updated 4/09)

1. The introductory chapter should constitute a review article in your sub-field. It should be submittable as a manuscript to a journal such as *Chemical Reviews*. It should NOT be a general introduction to dendrimers (e.g. the world does not need another explanation of the synthetic strategies for dendrimer syndissertation). It should NOT contain anecdotal referencing (referencing a single example of a concept), but comprehensive referencing. If comprehensive referencing is not feasible, then there is a flaw in the scope of the review article. If you are not familiar with review articles, browse *Chemical Reviews* and the review articles in *Chemical Communications* and *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*. If we (you and I) agree that a comprehensive review article is not feasible and/or warranted, then an abbreviated introduction to your field, with references relevant to your research, may substitute. It should be stated in the introductory chapter that this is the case.
2. The last section of the introduction should be *Aim and Scope of the Dissertation*. This section will describe the context for the research undertaken and the research undertaken in each chapter.
3. Each chapter should ideally be proper to submit as a full paper to an ACS journal, although there will undoubtedly be more information in a dissertation chapter than would be included in a manuscript, including more speculation.
4. All figures containing chemical structures should conform to ACS format or our modification of ACS format for dendrimers. In other words, incorporation of these figures into a manuscript for ACS publication should require no modification.
5. Names of compounds in the Experimental Sections should conform as close as possible to IUPAC nomenclature rules.
6. Experimentals should conform to the format given in the guidelines for research reports. If they do not, the draft dissertation will be returned without comment until the experimentals are corrected.
7. You cannot schedule the date of your final defense until I have read over your entire dissertation at least once.
8. A dissertation submitted to me that has not been *properly* proofread by at least two other people will be returned without comment. A document that has been *properly* proofread will have minimal typos, correct grammar and diction, and will be stylistically consistent with a scientific dissertation.
9. The document that I return to you with my comments should be saved until the dissertation has final approval. Electronic versions of the document before each revision should be preserved as a backup.
10. Your document must be backed up every day and the backup kept in a separate place from your computer.