



Counseling Thesis / Dissertation Guidelines

The Master's Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation for the counseling student's program will consist of the use of the results of the Arno Profile System (APS) utilizing temperament and the student's initial and subsequent visits with their counselees in the case study format.

Course CC 602 Temperament Case Studies will ultimately give the student the particulars of the case study and the experience to write one effectively. Since this course comes earlier in one program and later in other's, it would behoove the student to view an example of a [thesis](#) so that he or she may understand the dynamics of the interview process and its relation to the temperament survey (APS). In this way, each student may progress at a pace with which they are comfortable; understanding that note taking will be of importance as well as their understanding of temperaments.

The MCC and MA Programs each require the use of 25 APS reports. The PhD requires 35 APS reports and the ThD requires 15 APS reports to be completed. The student's mentor will work with them as needed should he or she have misunderstandings about the process, although most students grasp the concept readily and progress accordingly.

Some students have misgivings initially as to how to find APS respondents/counselees. First, there should be no fear (apprehension perhaps) regarding approaching someone in order for them to become a participant in your studies. Remember, this is a learning experience. So feel free to approach friends, relatives, church members, etc. Most will be willing to assist you with your educational goals. Once you have spent some time with your initial respondents, explaining their temperament and

temperament needs, you will find that they will want to spend further time exploring this new found information about themselves. This, in turn, helps you build your confidence in explaining why your respondents do the things they do. As you progress with your studies and APS reporting, your confidence continues to build. Soon you find that instead of you looking for counselees/respondents, they will be looking for you! It works that way.

So, the thesis or dissertation will ultimately be a compilation of the student's individual APS/case studies on these individuals. Each case study should be approximately 3-4 pages. Therefore, the MCC and MA theses should be around 100 pages in length. The PhD should be approximately 140 pages and the ThD around 60 pages.

The following page will give additional informational requirements.

GUIDELINES FOR A THESIS/DISSERTATION

If you are providing a counselee's name or any information which might identify a person, YOU MUST include a signed information release form within the section that pertains to that individual. We recommend that actual names be omitted and replaced with fictitious names or a file number.

Please note for your reference that the M.A. thesis requirements is to be a minimum of 100 pages in order to meet the minimum thesis word requirement.

A standard acceptable thesis should be a minimum of 25,000 words, specifically 100 pages, doublespaced line, consisting of 150 words per page.

A working thesis should consist of 25 case studies based on counseling sessions of individuals administered the A.P.S. report as part of the practicum requirements. The doctoral dissertation should be a minimum of 140 pages consisting of 35 case studies.

The format for each case study should follow the same example submitted for the homework requirement for the course "Temperament Case Studies."

The case study should be assembled accordingly and paginated. The thesis should also include a title page, index, bibliography and appendix as needed.

Your thesis must include a cover page that includes your name, the degree program for which the thesis is being submitted, the name of the selected university and the date. **One copy must be provided.**

Each case study will reflect an advanced understanding of the temperament and include the following:

1. The individual's A.P.S. report scores, e.g., M/P/Gc
2. Description (physical) of the individual and the reason for counseling (or the reason for which you generated an A.P.S. report for them).
3. Information regarding referrals. Did you refer them, for example, to a physician or to a minister of a local church so they could receive a visitation and be encouraged to attend?
4. The number of sessions you had with this individual, what you discussed during these sessions and what you accomplished, if anything.
5. The counselee's history outlining major events which may have impacted the individual being counseled/helped.
6. A well-developed outline of your work with each individual. This outline

should include an honest self-evaluation. For example, where do you feel you were deficient and where did you succeed? Your thesis or dissertation should be comprehensive and honest. The purpose for the thesis or dissertation is to help you identify your strengths and weaknesses and to assist in the development of your counseling skills.

Please be advised that your thesis or dissertation will be reviewed with enthusiasm and that it weighs heavily on the approval of the degree you are seeking. The overall appearance should be professional and impressive. Spend some time on your thesis; it is a representation of you and your work performance. It should represent you with integrity. Since it is a clinical thesis or dissertation, you will not be required to defend it. However, it will be graded and reported on your college grade transcript.