



Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

Tezpur University

Tezpur, Assam- 784028

GUIDELINE FOR DISSERTATION (MASOD 405P)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Dissertation (MASOD 405P) is an advanced, independent research paper and a core requirement of the MA Sociology programme. It is intended to assess the learner's ability to design, conduct, analyze, and present an original empirical or analytical research study. Dissertation paper requires the approval of a detailed Research Proposal. The Research Proposal is evaluated as part of the Dissertation process and is integral to MASOD 405P.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Dissertation (MASOD 405P) are to help learners:

- Undertake independent sociological research.
- Apply appropriate research methodologies and tools.
- Generate empirical or analytical insights on contemporary social issues.
- Develop advanced academic writing and analytical skills.
- Adhere to ethical standards in social research.

3. COURSE OUTCOMES (COS):

CO1: Ability to design and execute an independent research study.

CO2: Ability to apply sociological theories and methodologies.

CO3: Ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

CO4: Ability to critically discuss research findings.

CO5: Ability to present research in the form of a dissertation following academic norms.

4. STRUCTURE OF DISSERTATION

Students must submit a detailed Research Proposal approved by the supervisor and the Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC) before commencing dissertation work.

Structure of the Research Proposal (Part of MASOD 405P)

- Dissertation Proposal Form: ([Available](#))
- Title of the Study
- Rationale and Background

- Research Objectives
- Methodology
 - Sampling
 - Tools and Instruments
 - Data Collection Procedures
 - Data Analysis Techniques
- Expected Outcomes
- Limitations and Ethical Considerations
- References

Format Requirements for the Research Proposal Format	
Length	15 Pages
Language	English
Format	A4 size, typed and bound copy
Font	12pt with 1.5 spacing

Structure of Final Dissertation (MASOD 405P):

1. Dissertation Cover Page [Available Here](#)
2. Certificate
3. Acknowledgements
4. Declaration for Project Submission [Available Here](#)
5. Plagiarism Statement [Available Here](#)
6. Table of Contents
7. Introduction
8. Objectives
9. Review of Literature
10. Methodology
11. Data Analysis and Findings
12. Discussion
13. Conclusion and Recommendations
14. References/Bibliography
15. Appendices (if any)

Referencing Style (APA 7-Style Version Recommended)

- **Book:** Desai, A.R. (2000). *Social Background of Indian Nationalism*. Mumbai: Popular Prakashan.

- **Journal Article:** Patel, T. (2012). Gender and Population Policy in India. *Sociological Bulletin*, 61(1), 28–50.
- **Edited Book Chapter:** Nanda, M. (2011). Science and Hindutva. In U. Mehta (Ed.), *Modern India: A Theoretical Retrospective* (pp. 145–168). Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- **Internet Resource:** UNDP India. (2024). *Human Development Report: India Factsheet*. Retrieved from. https://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/library/human_development/india-factsheet.html (Provide the URL).
- **Thesis:** Broze, Stefne Lenzmeier (2003). The role of information in cancer patients ' involvement in their cancer care. PhD Dissertation. Ohio: Ohio State University

Format for Dissertation (MASOD 405P)	
Length	80 Pages
Language	English
Format	A4 size, typed and bound copy
Font	12pt with 1.5 spacing

5. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH DISSERTATION (MASOD 405P):

- Approved Research proposal
- Typed Proposal on A4 paper, double-spaced
- Certificate of originality signed by student and supervisor
- Dissertation Proposal Form: ([Available](#))
- Supervisor's Details
 - For Eligible Criteria in clause 7. a) and 7. b), institutional affiliation proof
 - For Eligibility Criteria in clause 7. C), a brief CV and work experience in the selected topic

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SUPERVISOR

The programme allows the students to choose their supervisor, but the selection is subject to the following criteria:

- a) Assistant Professor or above with a PhD in Sociology or a related discipline, permanently affiliated to a recognized higher education institution, with relevant research experience.

OR

- b) Assistant Professor or above with a Master's degree in Sociology, NET qualified, and having a minimum of two years of full-time teaching and/or research experience in a recognized institution.

OR

- c) A qualified professional with interdisciplinary expertise (e.g., Social Work, Development Studies, Gender Studies), permanently employed in a recognized academic or research institution.

A supervisor may guide a maximum of five students. A token remuneration as per the Tezpur University norm will be paid per student upon submission of the final dissertation.

7. DEPARTMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC)

A DAC will be constituted to ensure academic rigour and oversight. Responsibilities include:

- Verifying supervisor eligibility and matching with student topics.
- Constituting an Assessment Committee to monitor progress.

8. ACADEMIC SUPPORT IN ODL/ONLINE MODE

To ensure structured engagement, the following modalities will be adopted:

- Scheduled online or in-person meetings with supervisors (monthly across semesters).
- Participation in webinars or workshops on proposal writing, research ethics, data analysis, and citation.
- Access to digital libraries and academic databases.
- Fieldwork or community engagement where feasible, to promote experiential learning.

9. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- Submit the research proposal along with all required documents to the office of the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), Tezpur University.
- Incomplete proposals will be rejected. Students must retain a personal copy.
- Approval or feedback will be communicated in writing. In case of rejection, a revised proposal must be submitted with original feedback remarks attached.

10. FINAL SUBMISSION:

Submit FOUR hard copy of the final report to:

The Director Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE),
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Tezpur University
Napaam-784028,
Assam, INDIA

Mark the envelope clearly: "**DISSERTATION for MA SOCIOLOGY**"

Submission periods will be notified via the CDOE, TU official website.

11. EVALUATION OF DISSERTATION:

1. Two Levels of Assessment: Internal Assessment (40%) and External Assessment (60%)

❖ Internal Assessment

- Conducted by the Supervisor
- Evaluates based on Proposal development, Progress Report and Research execution.

Note: Proposal must be approved before beginning research.

Violation of the project guidelines will lead to the rejection of the project at any stage

❖ External Assessment

- Conducted by an external evaluator appointed by CDOE, TU.
- The external assessment includes Viva Voce (20 marks) and 40 Marks on the overall Project content.
- Viva voice will be conducted at the designated CDOE TU, exam centre. The members to be participated are:
 1. External Evaluator
 2. Supervisor/Guide
 3. Exam Centre Co-ordinator

2. Minimum 50% required to pass the Dissertation

12. RESUBMISSION POLICY

If a student fails, they may revise and resubmit the dissertation within the stipulated timeframe by paying a re-evaluation fee.

13. EXEMPTION CLAUSE

The project/dissertation is a mandatory component of the MA Sociology programme. No exemptions are permitted.