

Guidelines for Students Publishing Prior to Their Dissertation or A Master's Thesis at Westcliff University

While it is acceptable for students to publish research before completing their dissertation or thesis, it is important for students to understand that they will not be able to use the same research findings for their dissertation or thesis. In addition, students should be aware of publisher policies regarding the reuse of previously published articles in their dissertation or thesis since many journal publishers usually acquire the copyright to scholarly articles through a publication agreement with the author.

If you have published prior to completing your dissertation or thesis and you wish to reuse any of your previously published work in your dissertation you must be transparent and upfront with your Dissertation Chair or faculty member and follow these guidelines.

- Students must avoid plagiarism (and self-plagiarism) and provide a proper citation to each work and clearly state where and when it was originally published. In some cases, students may be required to obtain permission from the publisher to reuse the material in their dissertation.
- If the prior published work was co-authored, the co-authors must be acknowledged in the dissertation or thesis.
- Students are not allowed to use the same data set from previously published work in their dissertation or thesis.
- The dissertation or thesis must at a minimum address new research questions or hypotheses, use a different methodological approach, be conducted in a different context or with a different population, and/or offer original analysis or interpretation of the data than previously published research.
- Students are not permitted to use large sections of previously published work in their dissertation or thesis without substantial revision and proper citation, if needed.
- All research must be approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Violation of these guidelines could lead to:

- Rejection of dissertation/thesis
- Required revision or resubmission
- Potential delay in graduation

Students can publish their approved dissertations after completing all internal processes at Westcliff University.