



Applied Mathematics & Statistics, and Scientific Computation Program

William E. Kirwan Hall 3103 • 301-405-0924 • amsc@amsc.umd.edu

THE SCHOLARLY PAPER FOR THE MS WITHOUT THESIS

The Scholarly Paper for the MS without thesis is a requirement of the Graduate School and the AMSC program. This requirement will be interpreted according to the following guidelines:

1. The paper should be an essay on some topics in the student's area of specialization: applied mathematics, applied statistics or scientific computation. It must be written under the supervision of an AMSC faculty member. For example, the paper could survey reading done in a RIT, or the outgrowth of preparation for Candidacy.
2. Although the Scholarly Paper can be related to a student's dissertation research and include some of the student's research, it should be a self-contained document that describes literature on the subject. It should give a summary of existing work and discuss open questions on the topic. The paper should include an abstract and introductory section about the paper. It should not discuss what the author plans to do, and although it can include work the student has done, it should not emphasize it.
3. The paper need not be long, on the order of four to ten printed pages. It should be written in correct English and in a reasonable style. It should contain at least two references that are clearly related to the text and are properly cited.
4. The paper should first be approved by the advisor, then submitted to the AMSC Director who will retain the right to give final approval, especially in matters of style.



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Distinguishing the Candidacy Prospectus and Scholarly Paper: Purpose, Content, and Structure

Purpose and Scope

- **Candidacy Prospectus:**

- A forward-looking document.
- Focuses on *proposed* research, research questions, and justification for the project.
- May include discussion of relevant coursework or prior preparation that underpins the research.
- Meant to demonstrate readiness and a coherent plan for future work.

- **Scholarly Paper:**

- A self-contained, retrospective work.
- Focuses on *completed* research and well-supported scholarly arguments.
- Should not rely on context from the prospectus or coursework unless essential and well-integrated.
- Intended to engage with an academic audience as a standalone contribution to the field.

Content Guidelines

- **Course Material:**

- **Include in Prospectus only** (e.g., to justify preparedness or methodological choices).
- **Do not include in Scholarly Paper** unless absolutely necessary and reframed appropriately.

- **Proposed Research:**

- **Include in Prospectus** (e.g., project aims, methodology, expected contributions).
- **Include in Scholarly Paper only if completed and directly supports the paper's central claims.**

- **Own Results:**

- Can appear in the Scholarly Paper, but **only if clearly relevant** and *integrated* with the primary topic.
- Avoid inserting your results as a separate, disconnected section—this undermines coherence.

Structural Integrity

- The **Scholarly Paper must not** read like two unrelated parts:

- One based on literature review or another scholar's vetted work.
- One based on personal, unvetted research results that do not naturally build on or tie into the first.



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APPROVAL FORM FOR SCHOLARLY PAPER

I approve the scholarly paper of the following person:

STUDENT'S NAME

ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE

DATE

AMSC PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

DATE