

**Policy Number:** 106

**Subject/Title:** Thesis/ Dissertation Data & Publication Authorship.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2005

**Policy Statement:** The submission of the Thesis/Dissertation Data and Publication Authorship form is a required part of the student's thesis/dissertation proposal. UTHealth School of Public Health encourages the student and thesis/dissertation Chair to discuss and reach an understanding on the following topics. Other topics relevant to the student's research should also be discussed at this time.

1. Plans for formal copyrighting the thesis/dissertation;
2. Ownership of the data to be used by the student, if applicable;
3. Plans for publication of the results of the thesis/dissertation;
4. Where co-authorship is appropriate, discuss how the order of authors on the paper will be decided with special attention to first author and senior author positions;
5. Timelines for publication of data;
6. Agreement concerning student- or faculty-initiated publication, and contingencies if the faculty member or student chooses not to publish the results of the study; and,
7. If applicable, appropriate norms regarding publication and authorship as laid out in the relevant scientific discipline publication manuals and journal where publication may be considered. For example, some journals have strict roles for authors that could be included in the committee's discussion.

**Reason for Policy:** The proposed policy was developed to encourage students completing a thesis/dissertation proposal to discuss and reach an understanding with their thesis/dissertation Chair on the above topics.

**Definitions:** N/A

**Scope and Audience:** All UTHealth School of Public Health students

**Responsibilities and Procedures:** All students who are planning to complete a thesis/dissertation proposal and their thesis/dissertation Chair.

**Related Policies, Forms and Information:** Authorship, Publication Plan & Data Ownership Form (after submission, the student and committee Chair should each keep a copy of this document) can be found on the [Student Research](#) webpage.

**History:** Endorsed by Executive Council: September 30, 2004

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