

Use of the APA Publication Manual

The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, has been approved as the style guide to be used by doctoral students at the University of La Verne. Students need to be knowledgeable of the contents of the manual as they write their dissertation. However, Graduate Academic Services also has specific requirements that are not in the APA Publication Manual. Those modifications are available in the [APA/ULV Guide](#) for graduate students.

1. Abstract of the Dissertation

The abstract should consist of one paragraph of 250 words or less, which includes a well-structured summary outlining the most important points of your study:

- The first component should be a brief statement of the purpose of your research (covering what your study is about and the reason(s) why it is important.
- The second component is the methodology, or how the research was conducted.
- Third, include your main research findings.
- The fourth component describes the implications of your work for the larger body of academic literature.
- Last, include key words that help identify and classify your work.

See a sample on page 19.

Sample of Oral Defense Announcement for DPA Dissertation

University of La Verne

Defense of a Doctoral Dissertation

Doctor of Public Administration Program

Title

(This field can be as many lines as is needed)

by

Author

Day of Week, Month, Year

Time

Location

Examining Committee:

Dissertation Chair: Name, Degree

Committee: Name, Degree
Name, Degree

College of Law and Public Service

Accessibility & Accommodations:

If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate, please [contact](#) Melinda Davenport, Associate Director of Administration and Faculty Support, or call 909.460.2035 at least a week prior to the event.

Sample of Abstract for DPA Dissertation

DIFFUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONISM: SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS BAN
POLICY IN CALIFORNIA.*
(TITLE IN ALL CAPS)

By

Name, DPA

Supervising Professor: Name, Degree

Since the introduction of policy diffusion theory to understand how and why policies diffuse and are adopted across jurisdictions, regions, or countries, policy adoption behavior, diffusion patterns, and the mechanism of policy diffusion have been extensively studied and applied to other policy fields. Despite growing awareness of environmental concerns and policy diffusion in policy research, environmental policy diffusion has received less attention than other policies due to ambiguous economic benefits and the inability to observe short-term effects. City-level policy diffusion has also received less attention than state-level policy diffusion due to the often-similar socioeconomic and political characteristics under state and county governments. This study integrates Social Network Analysis (SNA), Geographic Information System (GIS), and Event History Analysis (EHA) to illuminate California's city-level environmental policy diffusion mechanisms. Empirical evidence shows that policy is diffused geographically through a channel of communication. Therefore, SNA and GIS provide useful analytical instruments for city-level environmental policy diffusion research, and EHA completes the argument on city-level environmental policy diffusion. This study's findings emphasize the importance of network structures, geographical proximity, and diffusion mechanisms in environmental policy diffusion. This study demonstrates that California's environmental policy diffusion followed the imitation mechanism. This study also finds that political, whether citizens prefer Democratic presidential candidates, and geographic features, proximity to the Pacific Ocean and having neighboring cities that adopted the policy, positively affect environmental policy adoption and diffusion in California. An interdisciplinary approach using SNA, GIS, and EHA provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing and understanding city-level environmental policy diffusion.

Keywords: Environmental Policy, Policy diffusion, local government

Abstract must follow the guidelines of page 17.

***Credit: Sekwen Kim, Ph.D.**