

TSHD Guidelines Concerning a Cumulative Dissertation

As stated in the [PhD regulations](#), in article 7.1.2:

“The Thesis consists of either a scientific treatise in book form on a particular subject or a compilation of a number of separate scientific articles, including an introduction and conclusion, written by the PhD Candidate or created under his or her demonstrable and dominant authorship. The assessment of previously published treatises is based on the state of the art at the time of the assessment of the Thesis.”

With regard to “a compilation of a number of separate scientific articles”, Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences (TSHD) applies the following guidelines to provide more concrete guidance to PhD candidates, supervisors, and PhD committee members.

The following guidelines apply to all TSHD PhD candidates who write a cumulative dissertation:

- ◆ A doctorate can be obtained on the strength of at least **four** substantial academic articles that have been accepted for publication by the editorial board of peer reviewed journals or proceedings of peer-reviewed conferences and/or have been subjected to peer review at the moment that the manuscript is submitted to the PhD committee for assessment (i.e. two articles accepted for publication and two articles “under review”).
- ◆ The articles are connected.
- ◆ Articles can be written in Dutch, English, or with prior approval of the Doctorate Board in a different language.
- ◆ The PhD thesis contains an introduction and an overall conclusion that show the cohesion of the articles.
- ◆ In the case of co-authorship of an article, the article should be predominantly written by the PhD candidate who then should be listed as first author.
- ◆ Co-authors of an article cannot be part of the PhD committee.

The PhD committee decides on the quality of the dissertation and whether the PhD candidate can be admitted to the public defense.