

rhode-island-thesis.cls

Theses and dissertations at the University of Rhode Island

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Based on version 2.0 by Timothy Toolan

Released under the LaTeX Project Public License (LPPL), version 1.3c

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Overview

`rhode-island-thesis` is a $\text{\LaTeX}$ document class for writing a thesis or dissertation that follows the formatting guidelines of the [Graduate School](#) at the University of Rhode Island. It produces the title page, approval page, table of contents, list of figures, and list of tables, and it sets the margins, spacing, and page numbering. It also produces the List of References and the Bibliography from a Bib $\text{\TeX}$ database.

The package includes a sample thesis that compiles as-is. Most students only need to edit it: fill in the details in `rhode-island-thesis.tex`, write chapters in `chapter1.tex`, `chapter2.tex`, and so on, and add sources to `references.bib`.

This is a modified version of `urithesis.cls` version 2.0 by Timothy Toolan. See [Section 9](#) for the license and the list of changes.

Contents

1 Quick start	2
2 Requirements	2
3 Files	2
4 Class options	3
4.1 General options	3
4.2 Drafting options	3
5 Setting up <code>rhode-island-thesis.tex</code>	3
5.1 Title page and approval page	3
5.2 Front matter	4
5.3 Chapters and appendices	4
6 References and the Bibliography	4
7 Compiling	5
8 Tips	5

9 License and changes	5
9.1 License	5
9.2 Changes from version 2.0	6

1 Quick start

1. Download the package and unzip it.
2. Compile `rhode-island-thesis.tex`:
 - **Overleaf:** create a new project with *New Project* → *Upload Project*, choose the zip file, and click *Recompile*.
 - **On your computer:** run `latexmk -pdf rhode-island-thesis`, or run `pdflatex rhode-island-thesis` followed by `sh genbib.sh` (see Section 7).
3. Check that the result matches the sample `rhode-island-thesis.pdf`.
4. Edit `rhode-island-thesis.tex`: choose the class options (Section 4) and fill in the title, author, committee, and front matter (Section 5).
5. Write your chapters and add your sources to `references.bib`.

2 Requirements

`rhode-island-thesis` needs a L^AT_EX kernel from October 2020 or later, pdfL^AT_EX, and BibT_EX. Any current T_EX Live, MacT_EX, or MiK_TE_X installation works, as does Overleaf. The class loads `etoolbox`, `ifthen`, and `url`.

3 Files

<code>rhode-island-thesis.cls</code>	The document class.
<code>rhode-island-thesis-ref.bst</code>	BibT _E X style for the numbered List of References, like [1].
<code>rhode-island-thesis-apa.bst</code>	BibT _E X style for author–year references, like (Toolan, 2006).
<code>rhode-island-thesis-bib.bst</code>	BibT _E X style for the alphabetical Bibliography.
<code>rhode-island-thesis.tex</code>	The main file of the sample thesis. Compile this file only.
<code>abstract.tex</code> , <code>acknowledgements.tex</code> , <code>dedication.tex</code> , <code>preface.tex</code>	Front matter of the sample thesis.
<code>chapter1.tex</code> – <code>chapter3.tex</code> , <code>appendixA.tex</code>	Sample chapters and appendix, with examples of figures, tables, equations, and citations.
<code>references.bib</code>	Sample BibT _E X database.
<code>rhode-island-thesis.pdf</code>	The compiled sample thesis.
<code>rhode-island-thesis-doc.tex</code> , <code>rhode-island-thesis-doc.pdf</code>	This document.

Keep the class and `.bst` files in the same folder as `rhode-island-thesis.tex`, unless your T_EX distribution already includes `rhode-island-thesis`.

4 Class options

Options go in the `\documentclass` line of `rhode-island-thesis.tex`, separated by commas. For example, a PhD dissertation with four committee members and page numbers at the top right is written as

```
\documentclass[phd,4committee,topnum]{rhode-island-thesis}
```

4.1 General options

These options all follow the Graduate School guidelines. Defaults are marked with an asterisk.

<code>masters*</code> , <code>phd</code>	Master's thesis or doctoral dissertation.
<code>12pt*</code> , <code>11pt</code> , <code>10pt</code>	Font size.
<code>standard*</code> , <code>manuscript</code>	Standard or manuscript format. In manuscript format, chapters are called "Manuscript" instead of "Chapter".
<code>oneref*</code> , <code>chapterref</code>	One List of References after the last chapter, or a List of References at the end of each chapter.
<code>bibliography</code> , <code>nobibliography</code>	Include or omit the alphabetical Bibliography at the end. The default is to include it in standard format, where the Graduate School requires it, and to omit it in manuscript format, where it is optional.
<code>aparefs</code>	Cite by author and year, like (Toolan, 2006), instead of by number, like [1].
<code>3committee*</code> , <code>4committee</code> , <code>5committee</code>	Number of core committee members on the approval page, not counting the Dean.
<code>sequential*</code> , <code>nonsequential</code>	Number figures, tables, and equations throughout the thesis, or restart the numbering in each chapter.
<code>bottomnum*</code> , <code>topnum</code>	Page numbers at the bottom center or the top right.
<code>hardcopy*</code> , <code>electronic</code>	Approval page with signature lines, or with the typed names only.

4.2 Drafting options

These options make writing faster, but the result does not follow the Graduate School guidelines. Remove them before submitting your thesis.

<code>draft</code>	Mark overfull lines with a black box, and show only the file names of figures.
<code>draftbox</code>	Like <code>draft</code> , but show the figures.
<code>simpleref</code>	One List of References at the very end, and no Bibliography. Only one BibTeX run is needed.
<code>noprelim</code>	Leave out the pages before Chapter 1.
<code>nobib</code>	Leave out the List of References and the Bibliography. Citations appear as [?].

To compile only the chapter you are working on, combine `noprelim` and `nobib` with L^AT_EX's `\includeonly` command.

5 Setting up `rhode-island-thesis.tex`

5.1 Title page and approval page

These commands go in the preamble of `rhode-island-thesis.tex`.

<code>\title{<title>}</code>	Title of the thesis. Use the capitalization you want on the title page.
<code>\author{<name>}</code>	Your name. Write John L.~Doe so that the period after an initial is not treated as the end of a sentence.
<code>\dept{<department>}</code>	Department on the title page. The default is Electrical Engineering, so most students need to set this.
<code>\copyrightyear{<year>}</code>	Year on the title and approval pages. The default is the current year; the Graduate School requires the year of your graduation.
<code>\signature{<name>}</code>	One committee member. Use one <code>\signature</code> per member; the first is the major professor. The number must match the <code>3committee</code> , <code>4committee</code> , or <code>5committee</code> option.
<code>\deansignature{<name>}</code>	The Dean of the Graduate School.

5.2 Front matter

The title page, approval page, table of contents, list of figures, and list of tables are produced automatically. The lists of figures and tables appear only if the thesis has figures or tables. The other front matter is written in separate files, which are included with the commands below. Each argument is a file name without the `.tex` extension, and each file contains only the text, since the heading is added automatically.

Section	Command	
Abstract	<code>\abstract{<file>}</code>	Required.
Acknowledgments	<code>\acknowledgements{<file>}</code>	Optional.
Dedication	<code>\dedication{<file>}</code>	Optional.
Preface	<code>\preface{<file>}</code>	Optional.

5.3 Chapters and appendices

After `\begin{document}`, include each chapter with `\newchapter{<file>}` and each appendix with `\newappendix{<file>}`:

```
\newchapter{chapter1}
\newchapter{chapter2}
\newappendix{appendixA}
```

Each chapter or appendix file starts with `\chapter{<title>}`. Chapters are numbered 1, 2, ... and appendices A, B, Do not put `\chapter` directly in `rhode-island-thesis.tex`.

6 References and the Bibliography

The Graduate School recognizes two kinds of reference lists.

List of References. A numbered list of the sources cited, in the order they are cited. It is optional, and appears either at the end of each chapter (`chapterref`) or once after the last chapter (`oneref`).

Bibliography. An alphabetical list of all sources used or consulted. It is the last section of the thesis. It is required in standard format and optional in manuscript format.

`rhode-island-thesis` produces both from the same BibTeX database. Name the database with `\reffile{<file>}`, without the `.bib` extension; a comma-separated list of files is also accepted. Cite sources with `\cite` as usual. Do not use `\bibliography` or `\bibliographystyle`; the class handles both, and these commands do nothing.

To list a source in the Bibliography without citing it, use `\nocite{⟨key⟩}`, or `\nocite{*}` to list every entry in the database. `\nocite` adds sources to the Bibliography only, never to the List of References.

The styles are based on `IEEEtran.bst`, so its entry types are available, including `@electronic` for web pages and `@patent`, `@periodical`, and `@standard`. They are described in “How to Use the IEEEtran BibTeX Style” by Michael Shell (run `texdoc IEEEtran_bst_HOWTO`). With `aparefs`, an entry without an author is cited by its key field.

7 Compiling

A thesis has several reference lists, and each one needs its own BibTeX run. How you compile depends on your setup.

Overleaf. Click *Recompile*. Overleaf runs BibTeX on every list automatically.

latexmk. Run `latexmk -pdf rhode-island-thesis`. It runs pdfL^AT_EX and BibTeX as many times as needed. Many editors can use latexmk.

By hand. Run `pdflatex rhode-island-thesis` once, then `sh genbib.sh`. On every run, `rhode-island-thesis` writes the script `genbib.sh`, which runs BibTeX on each list and then pdfL^AT_EX twice more. It also writes `genbib.txt`, which lists only the BibTeX commands, for systems without `sh`. Run these commands, then run `pdflatex rhode-island-thesis` twice.

8 Tips

- The text is double spaced. Use `\singlespace` and `\doublespace` to switch spacing where the Graduate School allows single spacing, such as long quotations.
- Load `hyperref` to make citations, cross-references, and the table of contents clickable in the PDF.
- Do not load the `chapterbib` package. `rhode-island-thesis` contains its own version of that code, and the two conflict.
- Figures and tables in appendices are not listed in the List of Figures or the List of Tables.

9 License and changes

9.1 License

This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the L^AT_EX Project Public License, either version 1.3c of this license or (at your option) any later version. The latest version of this license is at <https://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt>.

`rhode-island-thesis` is a modified version of `urithesis.cls` version 2.0 (2016), copyright 2004–2016 University of Rhode Island, written by Timothy Toolan. Timothy Toolan does not support this modified version. Report problems to Kyle Monette at <https://github.com/kylemonette/thesis-template/issues>. The unmodified version 2.0 is available from <https://www.ele.uri.edu/info/thesis/dist/thesis.zip> and is archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20260216180715/https://www.ele.uri.edu/info/thesis/dist/thesis.zip>.

The BibTeX styles are distributed under their own licenses, which are stated in each file. `rhode-island-thesis-ref.bst` and `rhode-island-thesis-bib.bst` are based on `IEEEtran.bst` and `IEEEtranS.bst` by Michael Shell (Perl Artistic License), and `rhode-island-thesis-apa.bst` is based on `apalike.bst` by Oren Patashnik.

9.2 Changes from version 2.0

`rhode-island-thesis.cls`

- The class was renamed from `urithesis.cls` to `rhode-island-thesis.cls`. Load it with `\documentclass{rhode-island-thesis}`.
- Requires a L^AT_EX kernel from October 2020 or later. Options are stored with `etoolbox` booleans instead of `\newif`.
- The default List of References is now one list after the last chapter (`oneref`). Version 2.0 put a list at the end of each chapter by default; this is now the `chapterref` option.
- New options `bibliography` and `nobibliography` control the Bibliography. It is included by default in standard format and omitted by default in manuscript format. Version 2.0 always included it, except with `simpleref` or `nobib`.
- The `standard` option now works. In version 2.0 it referred to an undefined command.
- The class writes `genbib.sh`, a script with the full compile sequence, in addition to `genbib.txt`. Its output files are opened with `\newwrite` instead of fixed stream numbers.
- The redefinition of `\@include` uses the L^AT_EX 2020 include hooks, so packages such as `hyperref` work with `\newchapter`.
- The end-of-document code uses `\AtEndDocument` instead of redefining `\enddocument`.
- The per-chapter counter reset list (`\cl@chapter`) is handled so that packages such as `listings` that extend it do not break the class.
- The comments and option descriptions were rewritten, and the code was reorganized. For a line-by-line record, compare this file with version 2.0.

`rhode-island-thesis-ref.bst`, `rhode-island-thesis-bib.bst`, `rhode-island-thesis-apa.bst`
Renamed from `uriref.bst`, `uribib.bst`, and `uriapa.bst`. Unchanged otherwise, except for a notice at the top of each file and the class name in the comments.

Sample files `thesis.tex` was renamed `rhode-island-thesis.tex`. It, `abstract.tex`, `chapter1.tex`, and `references.bib` were rewritten. `chapter2.tex`, `chapter3.tex`, `appendixA.tex`, `acknowledgements.tex`, `dedication.tex`, and `preface.tex` are new. `thesisbib.tex` was removed; it is no longer needed. This document is new.