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Before we begin . . .

Throughout this PowerPoint, I use the word **documents** to mean **Digital Commons**, which is the website to which you will upload your documents. You will receive emails from me via Digital Commons, and following my approval of your document, it will be stored in the Digital Commons permanent collection. You will find all your instructions for uploading to Digital Commons on the Graduate School website.

Thesis & Dissertation Handbook,

. You must still read the handbook. It contains supplementary information related to your document.

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During your graduating semester, refer frequently to the website.
 It contains:

the steps to graduation.

the many forms needed for graduation.

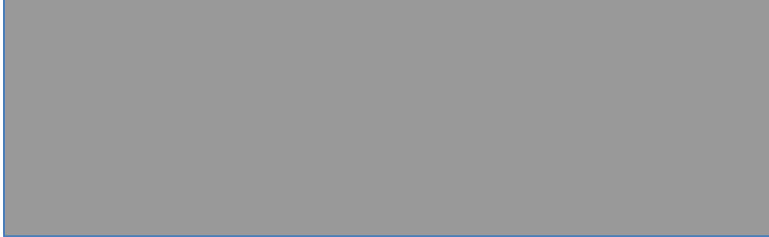
the semester **Calendar**, listing deadlines affecting graduation.

the newsletter, **Grad Nodes**, which posts reminders and more.

the **Thesis & Dissertation Handbook** NOTE: If you do not apply the formatting guidelines contained in the handbook, your document will be returned to you unreviewed



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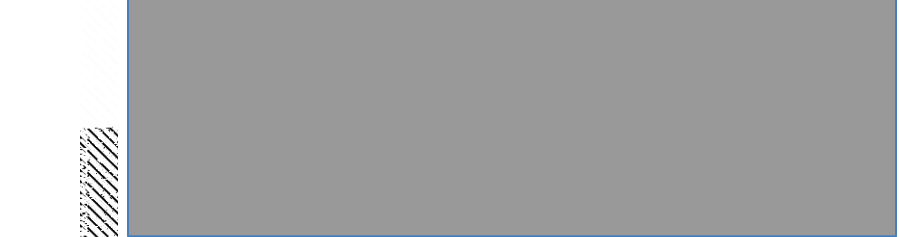
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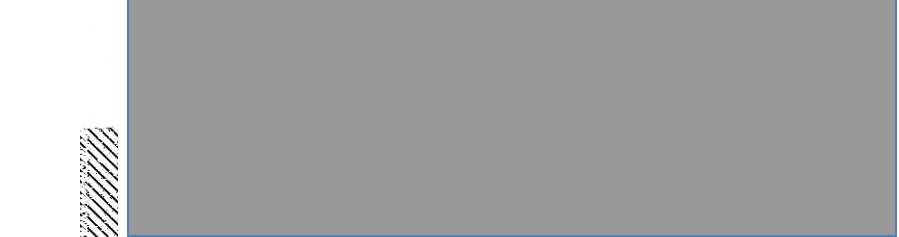
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- ‡ A day or two after the defense, double check that the department has indeed sent your signed approval form to the Graduate School.
 - ‡ Do not accept any departmental request to fill in the form yourself or convey it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School can accept this form only from the department.



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The document title on the title page should be 16 points, centered at the top margin, and in solid capital letters.

Main headings (e.g., Acknowledgments, Table of Contents, Abstract, chapter and appendix titles, Bibliography, Vita) should all be formatted identically from front matter through back matter. They must all be:

- 14 points

- placed at the top one-inch margin, either consistently against the left margin or centered

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- ‡ Boldfacing the document title, main headings, and subheadings produces a reliably handsome format that emphasizes the main sections of the document.
 - ‡ Do **not** boldface or italicize table numbers and titles or figure numbers and captions. Run them on the same line: Figure 1. Caption
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Never reprint your unpublished articles in an appendix or even acknowledge them in any way, although you are free to use them.

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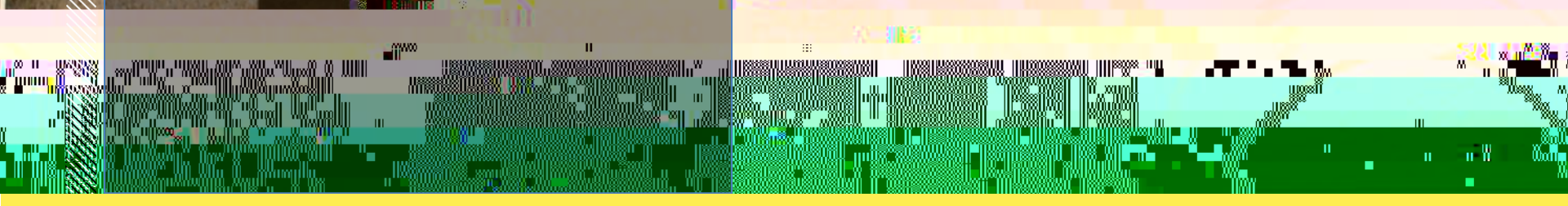
Never place references at the end of a chapter.

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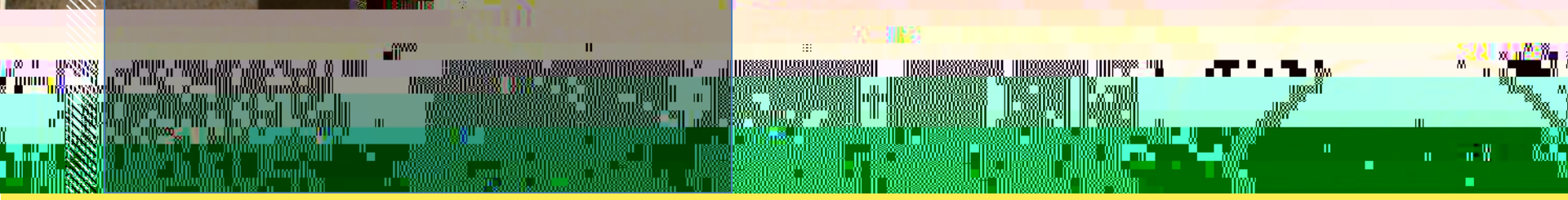
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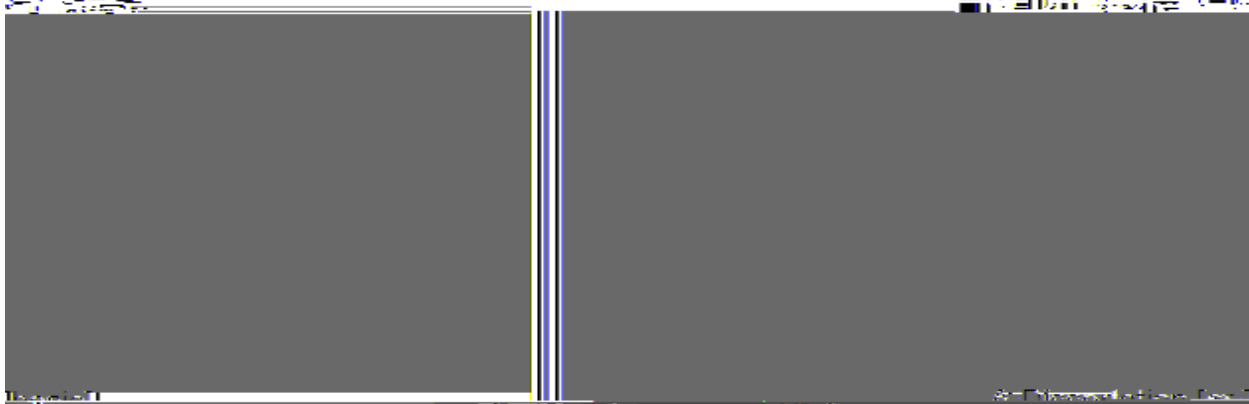
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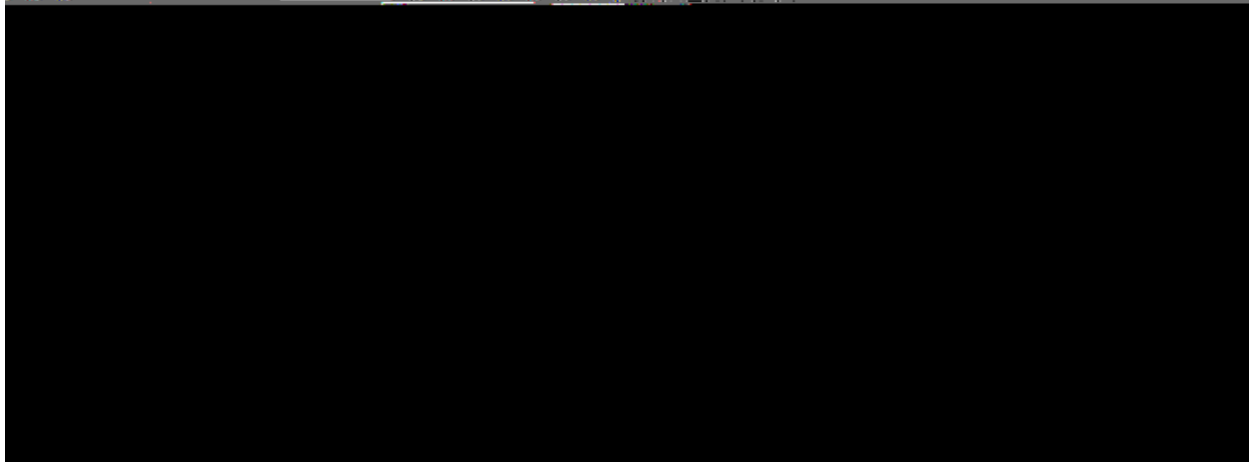
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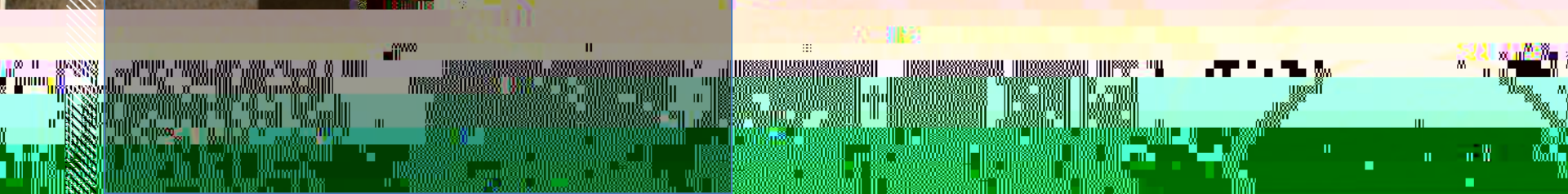
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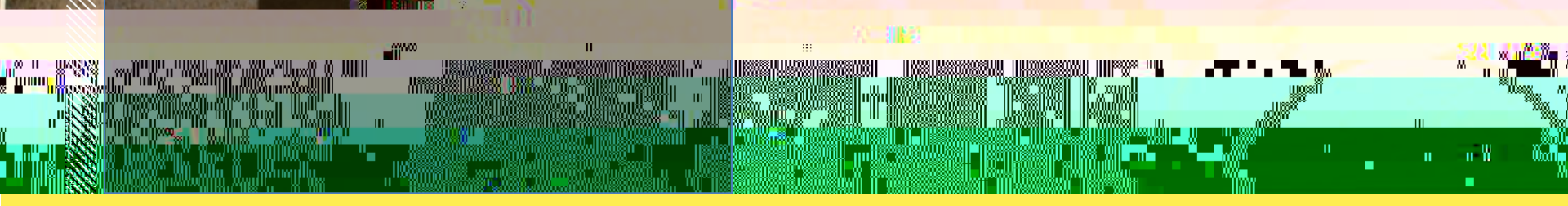


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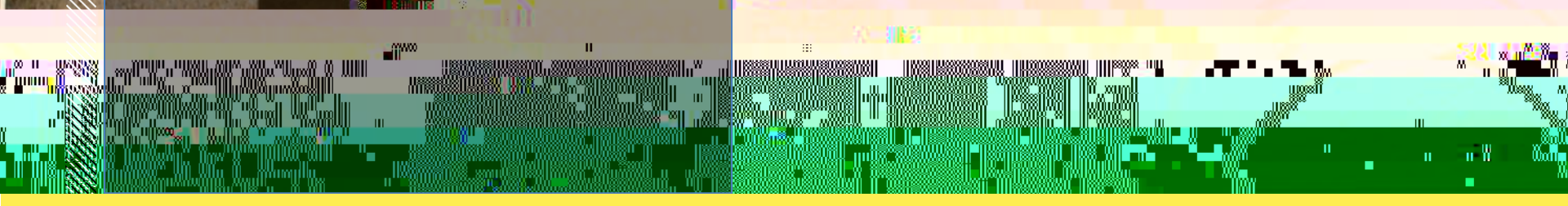
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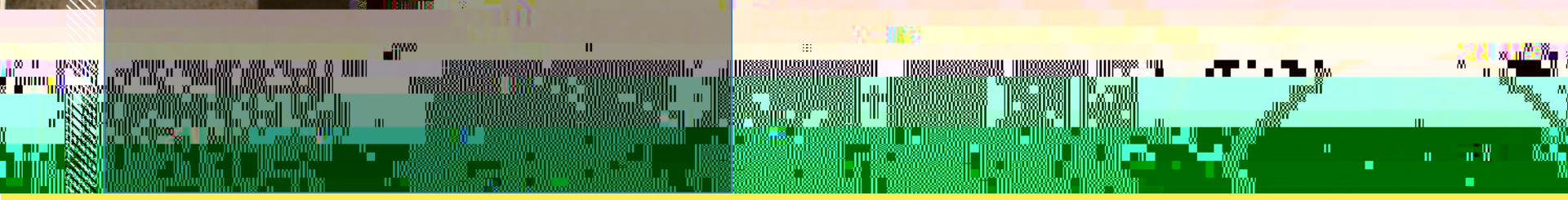
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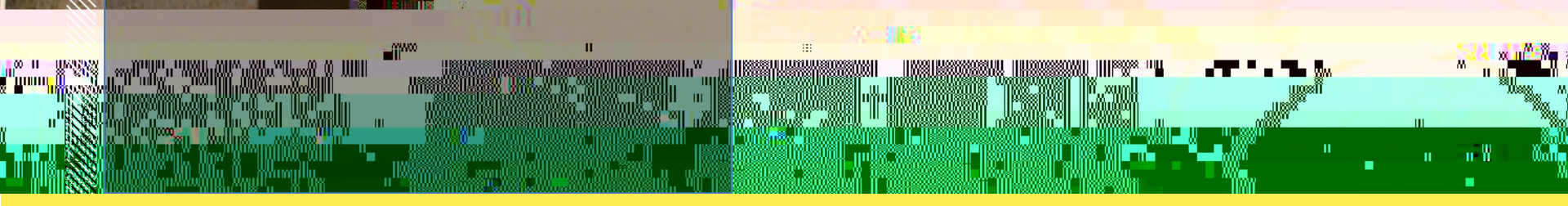
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- ‡ Avoid using more than two or three subheading levels if possible, especially in documents under 100 pages. Too many subheadings are visually disruptive and unnecessary in clearly written text.
 - ‡ Single-space subheadings longer than one line.
 - ‡ Double space above and below every subheading.
 - ‡ Do not begin a new page with every subheading. Subheadings should be separated from the previous (and following) section of text by only a double space.
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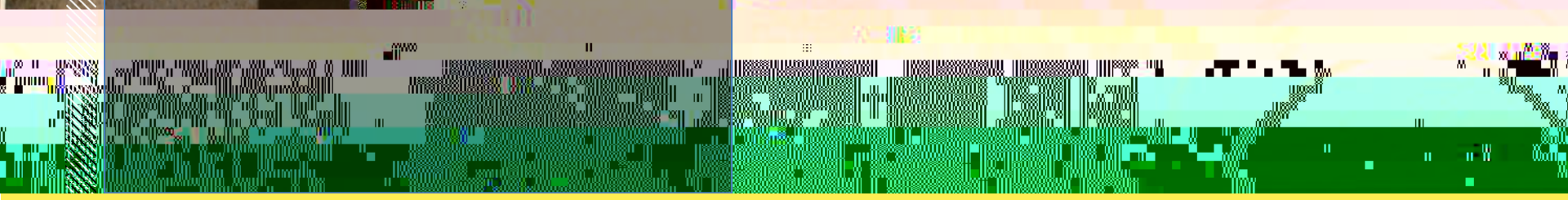
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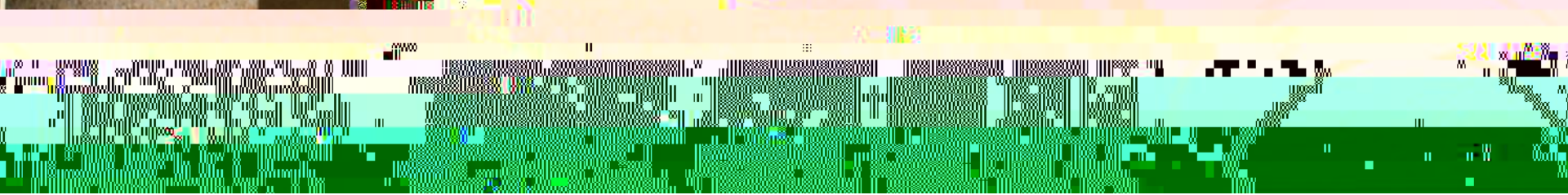
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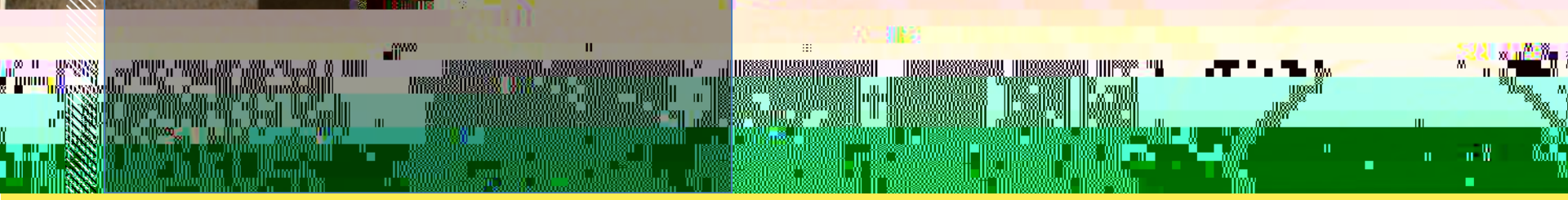
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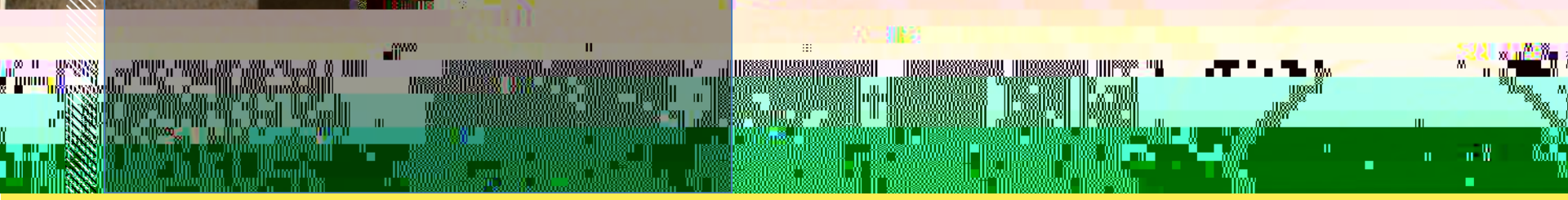
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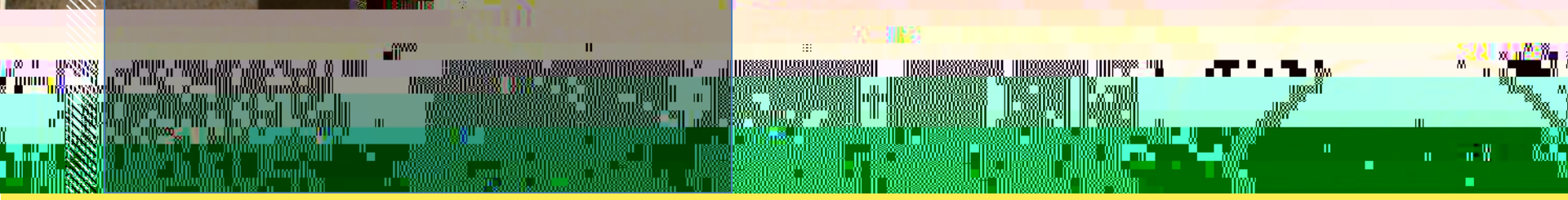
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- ‡ An appendix title should broadly describe its contents, such as
- ‡ Appendix material copied and pasted from another source (such as an IRB Approval) must meet margin requirements and include a main heading at the top of the page, formatted like all other main headings throughout.
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- ‡ Include the tables and figures in your appendixes in the lists of tables and figures in the front matter.

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Templates

- ‡ Four templates are available, all formatted in LSU style for theses and dissertations: LaTeX, Humanities, Sciences, and Studio Art.
- ‡ Locate templates on the Graduate School website > Current Students > Thesis & Dissertation Prep. These templates should serve the needs of students in most departments. Please look through them and determine which format will best serve your needs.
- ‡ Just a reminder that, even if you choose to use a template to format your document, you must still read the Thesis & Dissertation Handbook, as it contains information that you will need.

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