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## Temporary Publication Restriction of Theses and Dissertations

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<b>Policy Sponsor:</b>	Faculty of Graduate Studies
<b>Policy Contact:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
<b>Policy Number:</b>	N/A
<b>Effective Date:</b>	January 1, 2011
<b>Approval Group:</b>	Athabasca University Academic Council
<b>Approval Date:</b>	December 15, 2010, Motion #226-14
<b>Review Date:</b>	Annually
<b>Procedures:</b>	<a href="#">Temporary Publication Restriction of Theses and Dissertations</a>

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### Purpose

This policy is intended to provide clear direction on the publication of theses and dissertations, upon completion of all the requirements of the degree, with consistent criteria to be used by all graduate programs in the special circumstances when the temporary restriction of theses and dissertations is requested.

### Definitions

<b>Publication</b>	Making information publicly available in a reproducible form in AU space and Library and Archives Canada.
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### Policy Statements

1. Provision of access to information and technology is a defining feature of the University. AU supports the principle of academic freedom and free access to the results of University research, which includes research conducted by AU students. The University currently has a policy outlining that university research ‘will normally be published without any time restriction’ <http://www.athabascau.ca/policy/research/publicationofresearch.htm>.
2. Dissemination of research results is a primary function of Athabasca University.



3. It is the responsibility of the student's supervisor to advise students against selection of thesis or dissertation topics if the results cannot be published upon completion of all requirements for their degree.
4. The thesis or dissertation should be written in such a way to ensure the sample participants/agency in the research are made anonymous.
5. A request to restrict publication of a thesis or dissertation may be approved for a maximum of twelve months.
6. Valid reasons to restrict the publication of the thesis or dissertation include:
  - i. Time is required for submission of a patent application for a device or idea that might emerge from the thesis or dissertation.
  - ii. The thesis or dissertation describes something of considerable commercial viability potential which, if given an opportunity to develop it, could benefit the student.
  - iii. Funding for the research was provided by a sponsor who has requested a delay in publication.
  - iv. Public interest is best served by a delay in publication.
  - v. Other reason (please specify).
7. In the case of 'other' reasons for the temporary publication restriction of a thesis or dissertation which are not identified in the four criteria, the student and supervisor shall specify the reason on the form *Request for Approval to Temporarily Restrict Publication of Thesis or Dissertation*.
8. A plan to submit chapters of the thesis or dissertation for journal publication is not, by itself, grounds for withholding a thesis or dissertation from publication in AU space and harvested by Library and Archives Canada.
9. A thesis or dissertation will automatically be made available for publication in AU space and harvesting by Library and Archives Canada upon expiration of the restricted period.

### **Applicable Legislation and Regulations**

[Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#)

[Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Regulation](#)

[Copyright Act](#)

[Patent Act](#)



## **Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms**

Copyright

[Protection of Privacy](#)

[Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Policy](#)

[Student Confidentiality](#)

[Student Participation in Research Projects Policy](#)

[Publication of Research policy](#)

[Open Access Research policy](#)

Restriction policies of CIM and SCIS found at <http://dtp.lib.athabasca.ca/avail.php>

[Temporary Publication Restriction of Theses and Dissertations Procedures](#)

## **History**

Athabasca University Academic Council, December 15, 2010, Motion # 226-14 (Approved)