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Rights to Thesis Data and Publication Authorship

This document is an agreement between a student and faculty mentor regarding data ownership, authorship, and copyright of the thesis project used to satisfy requirements to complete the MA degree in Psychology.

To ensure the agreement represents the interests of both the student and faculty mentor, it is important to become familiar with the policies addressing student work and also guidance on the Thesis Review website.

This discussion should occur before the student begins his/her thesis work.

Topics to be addressed in this agreement include:

- 1. The copyright of the written thesis. The copyright of the written thesis used in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MA degree belongs solely to the student author. Copyright is secured automatically when the work is created. The university shall be entitled to a copy or definable facsimile of the thesis. There must be a compelling reason to share copyright of a thesis; such reason should be provided in writing and must be agreeable to the student author.
2. Plans for publication. Plans for publication of the results of the thesis should be discussed to include identification of an appropriate outlet, authors, determination of authorship order, logistics, and timeline for completion.
3. Contingency plan. A contingency plan should be discussed for publication of findings and authorship if the student is not actively involved. This should include a time limit after which the contingency plan will be put into place, and clear expectations of work to be accomplished.

Agreement:

We have discussed the issues noted and have reached the following mutually agreeable understanding:

_____ will have [lead authorship] on the manuscript provided that it is completed within _____ years of the successful thesis defense. If the student has not submitted the manuscript for publication within _____ years after graduation, the faculty mentor will have the right to prepare the manuscript for publication. In this situation, the faculty mentor reserves the right to alter the authorship order.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Date:

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Thesis Chair Name:

Thesis Chair Signature:

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