



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

## Graduate College

### GRADUATE COLLEGE

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**TO:** University Graduate Programs Committee

**FROM:** Robert Stackman, Dean of the Graduate College

**DATE:** August 19, 2025

**RE: Policy Reminder: Thesis and Dissertation Titles – Clarity and Accessibility**

### Purpose

To promote broader visibility and appreciation of graduate student research across the university community, the Graduate College encourages all thesis and dissertation titles to be written in **clear, jargon-free language** that can be understood by a general academic audience.

### Guidelines for Thesis/Dissertation Titles

When preparing Form 6s, or Form 8s that define the title of a thesis or dissertation, please encourage students and advisors to:

- ✓ **Avoid acronyms and abbreviations** (e.g., use “Unmanned Surface Vehicles” instead of “USVs”)
- ✓ **Minimize discipline-specific jargon** that may not be widely understood
- ✓ **Spell out specialized methods, models, or tools** where possible
- ✓ **Use clear, descriptive language** that communicates the research topic and significance
- ✓ **Consider how the title will be understood by faculty, administrators, and the public**

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### ✗ Examples to Avoid

- “PID Auto-Tuning for USVs: A Multi-Evolutionary Optimization AI Approach”
- “A CNN-RNN Model for NLP-Based IDS in IIoT Environments”

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### ✓ Improved, Accessible Versions

- “Automatic Tuning of Control Systems for Unmanned Surface Vehicles Using Evolutionary Optimization and Artificial Intelligence”
- “An AI-Based Approach to Intrusion Detection in Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Networks”