Electronic Theses & Dissertation (AUETD) Database Policy

Effective: August 18, 2014
Responsible Executive: Dean of the Graduate School
Applicability: Graduate Students
Review By: August 2022

The Auburn University Electronic Theses and Dissertation (AUETD) website is an online database of electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs) submitted by Auburn University students in partial fulfillment of the university’s graduate degree requirements. Its purpose is to make Auburn University’s ETDs widely available to the public and easy to find online. The ETDs in the AUETD database are indexed by Google and other internet search engines and may appear in search results for those search engines. Graduate students who want to limit access temporarily to the full text of their ETD must choose one of the limited access options during the ETD submission process (see options below). Students who choose to limit access to their ETD should be aware that basic bibliographical information about their ETD (including the abstract) will appear in the AUETD database and that the full text of their ETD will become publicly available immediately upon the expiration of the time limit set for limited access. Students who have questions or concerns about this policy are encouraged to contact the Graduate School at 844-4700 BEFORE submitting their ETD to AUETD.

Limited Access Options

A. Unlimited access: Publication in AUETD with unlimited access is immediate and irreversible. Once a thesis/dissertation is published in AUETD, access via the world-wide-web may not be denied or reversed.

B. Limited access: Upon request, students may limit access to their thesis/dissertation only to users with a valid AU User ID and password for a limited time period. Upon request, limited access is granted for a period of time not to exceed: i) six months; ii) one year; iii) two years; or iv) five years. Unless the student petitions to extend the period of limited access, the thesis/dissertation will be published with unlimited access immediately upon the expiration of the time period.
C. Withheld access: Upon request, students may withhold access to their thesis/dissertation to all users for a limited time period. This means that all users, including the students and their advisory committees are denied access to the thesis/dissertation in AUETD. Upon request, withheld access is granted for a period of time not to exceed: i) six months; ii) one year; iii) two years; or iv) five years. Unless the student petitions to extend the period of limited access, the thesis/dissertation will be published with unlimited access immediately upon the expiration of the time period.

D. Copyright. If students plan to copyright some of all of their thesis/dissertation, these plans should be discussed in advance with the major professor, especially if the thesis/dissertation includes shared data.