Tips in Writing a Dissertation or Thesis in LaTeX

1. How to set line space as double space?

You can simply use default package in the latex to help us. Put the following code into preamble:

\usepackage{setspace}\doublespacing

Notice: it turns double-spacing off within footnotes and floats like figure and table captions.

2. How to center the text you write?

In dissertation or thesis, some expressions, such as titles, name, and text need to be centered. To center the term, simply insert \centerline{\textbf{you want to centered}}

Example: \centerline{B.A. in Political Science, May 2006, University of Maryland}

3. What is the standard margin and how to set up?

The standard margin of a dissertation or master thesis is:

- Portrait: 1.25 inches for left & right margins; 1 inch for top & bottom margins
- Landscape: 1 inch left & right margins; 1.25 inches for top & bottom margins

To change page layout, since portrait is the default mode, here is the easiest way to change it to landscape. Put the following into preamble:

\usepackage[landscape]{geometry}

To simply set margins, you can write:

\usepackage[top=1in, bottom=1in, left=1.25in, right=1.25in]{geometry}

This package is easy as you do not have to remember the dimension of different papers as setting in other methods. (You can just use this way and you can use other methods as well)

4. Page number requirement.

In dissertation or thesis you would like to create a document which had a cover on page i, table of contents on page ii, table of tables on page iii and the first section on page 1, we would have the following:

% preliminaries %

\documentclass{article}
The details of the first section.