Editing of a thesis implies reviewing it keeping in mind all prescribed criteria and standards, so as to remove errors. The criteria and standards are prescribed by the journals, institution or other academic publishers to which the thesis is submitted for publication. In the case of scholarly papers researchers may want to apply to multiple journals or publishers who may have a different set of criteria, in this case a copy for each publisher needs to be prepared. In professional editing manuscripts are first edited and the suggestions made by the editor(s) are incorporated in consultation with the author and after the manuscript is finalized it is put up for proof reading, who checks for spelling and punctuation errors and corrects them. Such segregation is required to attend to each and every criterion, especially in complex manuscripts, and conform to high quality standards. The editor assigned with the job of editing has proficiency over the subject matter as well as the language in which the document is written and reviews the document with respect to.

- Prescribed format and structure
- Content
- Reference and citation
- Sequence of all the required pages
- Word usage, syntax and grammar
- Prescribed writing style

More than one editor or a team of editors can also be assigned for a single project.