The PhD dissertation is book-length. Its clarity, quality, format, and scholarly rigor is at the level required for publication of one or more articles in leading journals. It is well written, has a clear policy-analytic contribution, and is based on original work. The core chapters in the dissertation may be written as independent essays intended for publication as journal articles. Ask your advisor or examples of good past dissertations.

The topic for your dissertation must be approved by your committee (see Guidelines for Dissertation Proposal). The dissertation must be defended before your committee publicly and approved by your committee. The relevant milestones are: (1) form committee in your 3rd semester, (2) defend proposal in your 5th semester, and (3) defend dissertation before end of your 8th semester. Be sure to enroll for research credits MAST964 or MAST969 in the semesters you intend to do most of your work on the dissertation.

Official college and university statements regarding the dissertation (defense, format, submission, etc.) are found at the links below. Please read!

http://www.ceoe.udel.edu/academics/policies/index.shtml

Notes for Dissertation: