

College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling

EDL 833: Dissertation

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Course Description and Overview:

EDL 833 Dissertation. The completion of an approved dissertation which will contribute to Instructional Leadership. Minimum of 9 hours total required. Field-based projects will be emphasized. May be repeated. Prerequisites: Admission to the Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership; completion of required Leadership Core and Research Component course work and successful completion of comprehensive exam. Credit 3.

Objectives

The student will be expected to demonstrate the following competencies:

1. knowledge and application of research purpose and design;
2. ability to critically analyze and evaluate of research literature;
3. ability to develop and defend a research proposal.
4. knowledge and ability to appropriately gather data within the parameters of a research proposal;
5. knowledge and application of appropriate data analysis and results interpretation;
6. ability to develop a comprehensive research report in conjunction with a dissertation chair and committee;
7. ability to adequately present/defend the results of the complete research project.

Activities

1. The student, in conjunction with his or her dissertation chair, will enlist the remaining members a dissertation committee.
2. The student, in conjunction with his or her dissertation committee, will develop and defend a dissertation proposal. Proposals are to be double-spaced that adhere strictly to APA style. The proposal will be written in the following order:

Chapter I, including (a) title, overview, and significance of the study, (b) statement of the problem, (c) hypotheses or research questions; and (d) definition of terms;

Chapter II, a review of related literature; and

Chapter III, including methods and procedures (in specific detail), selected data analyses, and limitations and delimitations of the study.

3. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal by dissertation committee, the student will secure IRB approval for the study.

4. Subsequent to securing IRB approval, the student will conduct the research adhering to parameters specified in the dissertation proposal. Any deviation from the proposal must be discussed with the dissertation chair. Deviations from the proposal typically require submission of an amended IRB form.
5. After completing the research, the student will analyze the data and develop the final chapters of the dissertation.
6. The student will submit the completed dissertation to his or her committee chair for review and revision.
7. When the chair deems the dissertation ready for defense, the student will work with his or her committee to secure a day and time for the defense. The student, in conjunction with his or her dissertation committee, will conduct a public defense of the dissertation.
8. Subsequent to passing the defense, the student will follow the university and COE guidelines for submission of the dissertation to the various persons that must review the document prior to final approval.

Required Texts:

- American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American psychological association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Cone, J.D., & Foster, S.L. (2006). *Dissertations and theses from start to finish: Psychology and related fields* (2006). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association. ISBN:1-59147-362-4

Additional Recommended Reading:

- Bolker, J. (1998). *Writing your dissertation in fifteen minutes a day: A guide to starting, revising, and finishing your doctoral thesis*. New York: Holt & Co.
- Bryant, M. T., (2007). *The portable dissertation advisor*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.
- Davis, G.B., & Parker, C.A. (1997). *Writing the doctoral dissertation: A systemic approach* (2nd ed.). Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series.
- Galvan, J.L. (2004). *Writing literature reviews: A guideline for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (2nd ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyczak.
- Heppner, P., & Heppner, M. (2004). *Writing and publishing your thesis, dissertation & research: A guide for students in the helping professions*. Belmont, CA: Thomson.
- Pan, M. L. (2004). *Preparing literature reviews: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (2nd ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyczak.
- Szuchman, L. T. (2002). *Writing with style: APA style for counseling*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

GRADING:

Student will receive a grade of IP for each semester of EDL 833 until completion of the dissertation. Upon completion of the dissertation, students will receive a grade of CREDIT (CR) for each semester of EDL 833.

Disability Statement:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720. Any student with a disability that affects their academic performance is expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to insure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. The physically impaired may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students by phone, extension (936-294-1720).

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.