

PH.D. IN CAREER AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION

DISSERTATION PROCESS

Doctoral Program Committee

A Doctoral Program Committee and a Dissertation Committee, led by a Committee Chair, will provide oversight of the program of study and dissertation process. Each committee will ensure that students acquire knowledge in CWE and competence in using conceptual and technical tools to conduct research in an area of interest. The Committee is selected by doctoral students in consultation with their major professor following membership guidelines established by the college.

Credit Requirements

Upon successful completion of program coursework, students will be required to take and pass a qualifying examination to be eligible for doctoral candidacy. Once in candidacy, students must enroll in ECT 7980 for a minimum of 2 dissertation credit hours each semester and complete at least 12 dissertation hours to be eligible for graduation. The minimum credits for enrollment applies to the semester during which the dissertation is defended and the semester in which final submission of the dissertation is made to the Graduate School.

Proposal Development and Defense

Upon passing the qualifying examination and achieving the status of doctoral candidates, students are expected to design and develop a dissertation research proposal. Doctoral candidates are given the opportunity to receive preliminary feedback from their doctoral committee through a Proposal Pre-Defense. At this stage, the doctoral committee verifies that the candidate's dissertation plan is generally worthwhile, sound, feasible, and determines readiness to move forward to the formal Proposal Defense. Major professors are expected to ensure that doctoral candidates incorporate suggested revisions and call for a Proposal Defense meeting with the doctoral committee when the final manuscript is deemed to be ready for further scrutiny. The doctoral committee verifies the outcome of the dissertation proposal defense and, if successful, the doctoral candidate is then ready to proceed with field research after incorporation of any additional revisions.

Dissertation Research and Defense

With input and support from their major professors, doctoral candidates engage in data collection, analysis, and preparation of the manuscript reporting the research. Similar to the proposal development, doctoral candidates have an opportunity to complete a preliminary defense of their research upon drafting results of dissertation work. The purpose of the Dissertation Pre-Defense meeting is to provide the doctoral committee a chance to review preliminary findings and provide suggestions for improvement. After incorporation of changes suggested by the doctoral committee, doctoral candidates are expected to submit and defend the final version of their dissertation manuscript at a

formal Dissertation Defense meeting. To qualify for graduation, candidates must obtain verification of a successful dissertation defense from their doctoral committee, and meet all Graduate School GPA and enrollment requirements.

Sample of Dissertation Work

A multi-case study of student interactions with educational robots and impact on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning and attitudes.

Stephanie Holmquist, April 2014.

Predictors of student enrollment patterns in high school career academies.

Daniel Cox, November 2013.

Examination of the relationship of community college Opticianry student outcomes with instructional delivery methods and student age.

William Underwood, November 2013.

Do mathematics and reading competencies integrated into career and technical education courses improve high school student state assessment scores?

Kristin B. Pierce, March 2013.