Dissertation Research

Course Description

The course is designed to assist the students in writing a draft of the three-chapter (introduction, review of literature, methods) research proposal that may become the basis for a doctoral dissertation. Prerequisites: EDLD 6333, EDLD 6384, EDLD 6335, EDLD 6392.

Rationale

Students must be knowledgeable and competent in the methodology of educational research in order to complete a doctoral dissertation. This course provides the student with the opportunity to synthesize knowledge, understanding, and application of research design, instrumentation, sampling, and data analysis to write a research proposal that, if approved by the student’s dissertation committee, will become the basis for a doctoral dissertation.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

This is the last of the five research methods and statistics courses in the Department of Educational Administration and Research. As such, the major objective of the course is to assist the student in writing and orally presenting the first draft of the doctoral dissertation proposal. Additionally, all students are expected to complete the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) application form, which must be approved by TAMU-CC Committee for Research Involving Human Subjects in advance of the initiation of the research investigation.

State Adopted Proficiencies for Teachers and/or Administrators/Counselors - NA

TExES Competencies – NA
Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate (CPED) Principles:

4. Provides field-based opportunities to analyze problems of practice and use multiple frames to develop meaningful solutions.

5. Is grounded in and develops a professional knowledge base that integrates both practical and research knowledge, that links theory with systemic and systematic inquiry

6. Emphasizes the generation, transformation, and use of professional knowledge and practice.

Textbook


Recommended or Supplemental Reading, Online Sources


Online course on educational research: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072981369/sitemap.html
Purdue online writing lab: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/10/
TAMUCC compliance office: http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/index.html
TAMUCC IRB forms: http://research.tamucc.edu/compliance/irb_forms.html
TAMUCC writing center: http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php
Writing and presenting dissertation: http://www.learnerassociates.net/dissthes/
Effect size paper: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/documents/00002182.htm

Course Topics
1. Mixed methods research models
2. Ethics in research with human participants
3. Institutional review board
4. Dissertation proposal preparation and presentation

Instructional Methods and Activities
1. Lecture/discussion
2. Student presentations
3. Practice problems
4. One-on-one consultation sessions
5. Work on developing dissertation proposal

Evaluation and Grade Assignment

Chapter I, Introduction, 30%, Due: ______________________________
Chapter II, Review of Literature, 30%, Due: _________________________
Chapter III, Methods, 30%, Due: __________________________________
IRB Application, 5%, Due: _______________________________________
Proposal Presentation, 5%, Due: ___________________________________

Grading Scale:
90 – 100 A
80 - 89 B
70 - 79 C
60 - 69 D
< 60 F
Incomplete, I. “An incomplete notation may be given to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control other than lack of time.”
Course Schedule and Policies

1. Course schedule follows the course topics.
2. Late assignments are not accepted except in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the instructor. Students who find that they are unable to be at an examination session because of illness or extenuating circumstances should contact the instructor as soon as the condition becomes apparent to arrange fair and practical extensions.
3. The instructor expects complete honesty in the completion assignments. Plagiarism, “the act of taking the work/writings of another person and passing them off as one's own,” is not tolerated.
4. Cell phones must be off. Text messaging is not allowed. No food consumption in the classroom.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Disability Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failing the course.
Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. This term, 11.11.2016 is the last day to drop a class and an automatic grade of “W” will be assigned to the student.

Classroom/Professional Behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, and the like.

Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state, and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes cannot be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.