Department of Secondary Education & Educational Leadership
EDLE 6199 Dissertation
Summer 2021

Instructor: Pauline M. Sampson, Ph.D.

Course Time & Location: Room 420 LAA North Credits: Variable credits

Contact Information:
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Hours: M-F 8-5
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I. Prerequisites: Permission of Dr. Hendricks, Doctoral Coordinator

II. Course Description:
A doctoral dissertation is required for partial fulfillment of the degree. This reflects an original, scholarly contribution to the research literature relevant to school psychology and child and family issues. Students will work closely with the chair of their supervisory committee to formulate dissertation ideas. Students will register for this course a minimum of three times.

Required of every candidate for the Ed.D in Educational Leadership, the dissertation is a significant contribution of research/scholarship that reflects the beliefs undergirding the degree program as scholar-practitioner, responsible and disciplined inquiry in the candidate's major area of study, and an authentic contribution to the body of literature in Educational Leadership. The format of the Dissertation must be acceptable to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

SFA complies with SACSCOC Standard 9.6 of The Principles of Accreditation (2018) for all graduate courses: “Post-baccalaureate professional degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs, and are structured (a) to include research and/or appropriate professional practice and training.”

Intended learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):
The mission of the College of Education is to prepare competent, successful, caring, and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, and continued professional and intellectual development.

The goals of this course are closely aligned to those of the College of Education (COE), which is to prepare competent, successful, caring and enthusiastic professionals dedicated to responsible service, leadership, and continued professional and intellectual development.
Familiarity with the university and American Psychological Association standards, policies and requirements associated with dissertation development (http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/108.asp);

- Completion of all tasks that will result in the submission of the Dissertation Proposal Approval Form (http://www.sfasu.edu/graduate/documents/thesisapproval.pdf);
- Successful completion of five-chapter Dissertation.

**Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives:**
Enhance educational opportunities at the graduate levels which promote intellectual, professional, cultural, and societal growth for students to prepare them for success in a global community.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
Provide programs at graduate levels based upon sound pedagogical practice.

**Student Learning Outcomes**
The candidate will be able to demonstrate in-depth understanding of the topic studied, of the methodology used, and of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations stemming from a research study.
The candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of and skill in research design.
After approval by the dissertation committee and department chair and successful defense of the dissertation, candidate will be able to apply knowledge of a research process.

### III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology
1. The Dissertation should be prepared in a format that is consistent with the APA style and format. Dissertation Guide specifications should be used for margins, etc.
2. Review of the university and APA guidelines for Dissertation: Chapter 1 (Problem); Chapter 2 (Literature Review); Chapter 3 (Methodology); Chapter 4 (Results); Chapter 5 (Discussion).
3. Review of selected successful Dissertation Exams with critiques that address the issue of diversity within the body of knowledge.
4. Identification of a content area with designated Dissertation chair that will guide the review of the literature.
5. Selection of the Dissertation Committee. The student must submit verification of Dissertation Committee paperwork completed and signed by each member: two (2) program faculty members, and one (1) non-department faculty member.
6. Comprehensive review of the literature that results in an overview of the literature that establishes a clearly defined rationale for the study leading to the development of a focused research question.
7. The development of a problem-based, research question.
8. Submission of the IRB application and attending to requested revisions.
9. Data Collection and analyses (Chapter 4).
10. Developing a comprehensive and coherent discussion section (Chapter 5)
11. Completion of all five chapters and successful defense of dissertation during the Oral Examination.
12. Attending to committee members’ feedback and timely submission of the final manuscript to the Committee members and Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading)
A WH grade will be given until final completion of the dissertation, approved by the committee, the College of Education, and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

V. Course Outline/Calendar:

Candidates should check in with me on a weekly basis to update progress on their dissertation. This could include emails, texts, or phone calls.

VI. TEXT AND MATERIALS
Required Texts:

VII. Course Evaluations:
“Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the Perkins College of Education electronically evaluate courses taken within the PCOE. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including:
1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention.
As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the PCOE faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!”

In the Perkins College of Education, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: Found at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7
Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for
reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Policy 6.1 and 6.6**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Student Academic Dishonesty: Policy 4.1**
Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
- submitting an assignment as one’s own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

**Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**
Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

**Student Appeals**
A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

**Withheld Grades: Policy 5.5**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the
WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Code of Conduct: Policy 10.4
Disruptive Behavior--Interference or disruption of students, faculty, administration, staff, the educational mission, or routine operations of the university is prohibited. Such activity includes, but is not limited to, behavior in a classroom or instructional program that interferes with the instructor or presenter’s ability to conduct the class or program, or the ability of others to profit from the class or program. To remain in the vicinity of activity that is disrupting normal university functions when requested to leave by a university official is prohibited. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program at SFA.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

IX. Other Relevant Course Information:
Based on university practice, continuous enrollment in thesis and dissertation hours is required until the total number of hours has been completed. Consequently, it is important that students enroll in the number of credits that most accurately reflect the anticipated time commitment and task completion. In the Educational Leadership EdD program a minimum of 12 hours must be
committed to dissertation; however, failure to engage in successful completion of the dissertation with an oral defense of the manuscript will require enrollment in additional credits of independent study until completion. When a WH is assigned, the final grade, determined by the Chair of the dissertation with contribution from the selected committee, will not be assigned until after the successful Oral Defense and submission of the feedback-based manuscript. By the date indicated in the current Graduate Bulletin, the candidate must submit to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies:

1. An electronic copy of the dissertation in final form, incorporating all suggestions and corrections by the candidate's Advisory Committee;
2. A completed Application for Dissertation Examination, which should be submitted at least one week before the proposed date of the Oral Defense;
3. Receipt for payment of fees to the University library for binding, shipping and Scholarworks.

Not later than the date specified in the current graduate catalog, the candidate for the Ed.D. degree must pass the Final Dissertation Oral Defense, conducted by the student's Examination Committee after each committee member has had time to examine the dissertation. Other interested faculty members may attend the examination without vote. The dissertation and student’s performance on the final oral examination must be approved by a positive vote of at least a majority of the voting examiners.

After the Final Examination, the Examination Committee will complete the Report of the Dissertation Examination. Following passage of the Oral Defense, a copy of the dissertation signed by the committee will be presented with the Report of the Thesis/Dissertation Examination for the approval of the Dean of the Research and Graduate Studies. The Report of the Dissertation Examination, when signed by the Examination Committee, is the committee's guarantee that the candidate has completed the work assigned by the committee; passed all examinations required by the department, including the final orals; completed a dissertation that reveals creditable literary workmanship, independent investigation in the candidate's major area of study, and is itself an original contribution to scholarship; and submitted for publication in Scholarworks.