

DEPARTMENT: Educational Studies, Leadership and Counseling

COURSE PREFIX: ADM **COURSE NUMBER:** 920

CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. TITLE: Dissertation Seminar I

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S):

This course is designed to familiarize students with the academic expectations and requirements for the doctoral dissertation, improve inquiry skills, and make significant progress toward successful completion of the dissertation. This course may be repeated for a total of six (6) hours. Graded pass/fail.

Prerequisite(s): Candidacy status in the Ed.D. Program

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The student will be able to

- A. appreciate the role of scholarship and research in making educational decisions,
- B. evaluate and critique various forms of research and scholarship,
- C. establish a problem of practice for his/her dissertation research,
- D. demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the literature in chosen field of study,
- E. provide justification for his/her research proposal,
- F. articulate individual timeline for the successful completion of the dissertation,
- G. provide a well-developed framework of the dissertation proposal, and
- H. successfully complete Chapters 1 and 2 of the Dissertation Proposal.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

- A. Review of dissertation process and expectations
- B. Library research tools
- C. Improving academic writing, APA style
- D. Peer-editing
- E. Problem of practice
- F. Chapter I: The introduction
- G. Chapter II: Literature review
- H. Dissertation proposal process

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- A. Classroom lecture and discussions
- B. Engaged online discussion via Blackboard
- C. Small group activities and discussions
- D. Problem-based research projects
- E. Reading contemporary articles
- F. Reflective journaling

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

None

VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.). (2010). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Roberts, C. (2010). *The dissertation journey: A practical and comprehensive guide to planning, writing and defending your dissertation* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Evaluation and grade will be determined by assignments, tests, and projects based on text, supplementary readings in professional journals, lectures, presentations, group activities, and class discussions.

- A. Graded pass/fail.
- B. To advance to ADM 930: Dissertation Seminar II, students must have Chapters 1 and 2 of the Dissertation Proposal approved.
- C. A grade of R will be recorded for each semester until the dissertation is successfully defended.
- D. Sample Assignments
 1. Chapter 1 Draft: Students will submit a draft of Chapter 1 based upon requirements articulated in the program's Dissertation Guide.
 2. Chapter 2 Draft: Students will submit a draft of Chapter 2 based upon requirements articulated in the program's Dissertation Guide.
 3. Project Protocols: Students will participate in peer review protocols that provide feedback during the project development process.

Signature Assignment: Students must complete Chapters 1 and 2 of the Dissertation Proposal and receive approval from their instructor to advance to ADM 730: Dissertation Seminar II. In addition to the written documents, students present a synopsis of his/her literature review to the seminar class.

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current MSU *Bulletin*.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).