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College of Professional Studies

Department of Leadership Studies

Doctor of Education in Leadership Studies

Research Proposal Guidelines

The research proposal should be written following the template provided. Below is information to most effectively present your research in consultation with your faculty advisors.

1. General Information
   1. Title of dissertation
   2. Student's name
   3. Committee Chair:
   4. Committee Members:
2. Abstract (300 word maximum)

The abstract should be a summary of the action research study including context/background, significance, and methods. The abstract should enable the reader to ascertain the general plan of investigation without further review of the proposal. It is probably best to write the abstract after the rest of the proposal has been completed.

1. Action Research Project (500 word maximum)

The specific actionable problem of study should be stated explicitly in this section. This involves definition of any crucial terms or concepts connected with the problem. One of the best ways to state the problem is to list one or more questions that the study is intended to answer.

1. Review of Literature (1,000 word maximum)

This should be a very general review of the literature surrounding the actionable problem and the concepts connected to the problem. It may discuss the prior studies in the same area, a field situation to which the study relates, or the theoretical/conceptual framework out of which the study arises. This section should make clear why the study is of value in extending organizational l theory, technology, or practice: i.e., the contribution to present knowledge which the proposed study will make. A well-organized literature review will flow from the main area of study into concepts incorporating multiple citations from different authors per paragraph and will situate the study within related professional literature.

1. Theory of Improvement (300 word maximum)

This section should explain how you plan to improve the actionable problem of study. How did you decide on his intervention or model as a potential way to improve the problem?

1. Method of Study and Measurement (500 word maximum)

This section should explain exactly how the study is to be conducted. What will you be measuring? How will you measure it? How will you collect the data, from where, and when? Explain how the tenets of action research are met/included in your study.

Inevitably, some aspects of the technique must be developed as the study proceeds, but this statement should be as definite as possible. Three points must be considered: sources of data, data collection procedures, and data analysis and presentation procedures.