

Dissertation Prospectus and Proposal

In order to solicit feedback and assist in dissertation committee formation, the student prepares and circulates a 5-10 page dissertation prospectus to the faculty. The development of the prospectus is done in conjunction with the identification of the dissertation committee chair. The prospectus focuses on the statement of the problem, its relevance to educational psychology, the design of the investigation, and analysis. After faculty approval of the prospectus, the student forms a committee, and develops the more detailed proposal with committee members' assistance.

A copy of the prospectus is circulated to each member of the faculty. The prospectus must be submitted by the 15th of each month in order to be considered at the first faculty meeting of the following month. For example, February 15 would be the deadline to submit a prospectus to be considered at the first faculty meeting in March. April 15 would, therefore, be the deadline for prospectuses to be considered in the Spring semester. Prospectuses submitted thereafter would be considered in the Fall (the first meeting in September). In the Fall semester, prospectuses submitted by September 15 would be considered at the first meeting in October. The last day to submit a prospectus for consideration in the Fall semester would be November 15. Prospectuses submitted thereafter would be considered at the first meeting in January.

Faculty members will meet to discuss the prospectus. The student's prospective dissertation chair will communicate to the student the results of the meeting. If there are concerns regarding the prospectus, the student may be asked to attend a faculty meeting to discuss and respond to these concerns, or the student may be asked to meet with faculty members individually. Once the student has responded to faculty concerns, the faculty will meet again to consider the prospectus and its revisions. This in no way should discourage other interactions between faculty and the student regarding the prospectus. Students are also advised that no single faculty member has veto power over a prospectus.

Assuming that there are no major objections to this prospectus from the faculty as a whole, the student forms a five-member dissertation committee through mutual interest. The chair of the dissertation committee must be a member of the graduate faculty in educational psychology (including cooperating graduate faculty). A majority of the members must be "inside" the graduate field of educational psychology, and at least one of the members must be "outside" the graduate field. ["Outside" committee members are those members of the UHM graduate faculty who are not members of the Educational Psychology graduate faculty.] Dissertation committee formation generally is intertwined with proposal development. This is followed by defense of the proposal and approval or exemption from CHS for those working with human subjects.