# Course Description

This one credit hour semester-long course is required for doctoral candidates in educational leadership who have completed all coursework requirements for the degree, but have yet to meet one or more related requirements, including the following:

* Comprehensive assessment accepted by Faculty Committee
* Written dissertation accepted by full Dissertation Committee
* Oral defense of dissertation accepted by full Dissertation Committee
* Journal article based on dissertation research suitable for publication accepted by Dissertation Advisor
* Abstract of dissertation research and key words accepted by Dissertation Advisor

The doctoral candidate who has not met one or more of these requirements shall enroll continuously in this course each semester in order to have access to university facilities, resources, and faculty until all requirements are satisfied, whereupon the doctoral candidate shall be eligible for graduation at the next date.  The course shall consist of independent work to complete the above-cited requirements under the direction of the Dissertation Advisor.  The course shall be graded on a pass/fail basis.

**University Learning Outcomes (ULO)**

* **ULO1**: Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
* **ULO2**: Intellectual and Practical Skills
* **ULO3**: Personal and Social Responsibility
* **ULO4**: Integrative and Applied Learning
* **ULO5**: Immersed in the Critical Concerns of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

# Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

* **PLO1:** Articulate an educational organization's mission, goals, and guiding principles that distinguish the organization from others. (ULO1, 4)
* **PLO2:** Understand the foundational base of organizational theory, and demonstrate the ability to bridge theory and practice. (ULO1, 2, 4)
* **PLO3:** Given scenarios of conflict, choose ethical courses of action consistent with Gospel values. (ULO3, 5)
* **PLO4:** Synthesize and analyze data to reveal relations and causality, and convert raw data into actionable information. (ULO2, 4)
* **PLO5:** View problems and challenges through the lens of a scientist, seeking evidence-based conclusions. (ULO1, 2, 4)
* **PLO6:** Practice and model steward leadership in transforming organizations to better serve all constituents. (ULO3, 4, 5)
* **PLO7:** Demonstrate facility in the application of technology to solve problems, analyze and synthesize data, and manage information. (ULO1, 2, 4)

# Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

* **CLO1**: Evaluate your dissertation progress.
* **CLO2**: Progress through the writing process in your dissertation.
* **CLO3**: Evaluate your dissertation collaboratively with your dissertation advisor.

**Student Expectations**

Students are expected to:

* ask probing and insightful questions related to course content.
* make meaningful and relevant connections and application to their own learning process.
* be productive and contributing members of class discussions.

# Required Course Materials

Bolker, J. (1998). *Writing your dissertation in fifteen minutes a day: A guide to starting, revising, and finishing your doctoral thesis*. New York: H. Holt. ISBN 13 978-0-8050-1891-9; ISBN 10 0-8050-489-X

Lovitts, B. E., & Wert, E. L. (2009). *Developing quality dissertations in the social sciences a graduate student's guide to achieving excellence*. Sterling, Va.: Stylus. ISBN 978-1-57922-261-1

Rudestam, K. E., & Newton, R. R. (2014). *Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process* (4th ed.). Newbury Park, CA: Sage. ISBN -10: 1452260974, ISBN-13: 978-1452260976

# Suggested Point Values

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Assessment** | **Point Value** | **Due** |
| **Core Module** | |  |  |
|  | Dissertation Collaboration | Pass/Fail | <insert due date> |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Points** | | **1000** |  |

# Weekly Learning Modules

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Core Module: Continuing Dissertation Advisement | |  | |
| ***Learning Objectives*** | | ***Alignment*** | |
| * 1. Evaluate your dissertation progress. | | CLO1 | |
| * 1. Consult with your dissertation advisor about your dissertation evaluation. | | CLO1, CLO3 | |
| * 1. Communicate the status of your dissertation to your committee members. | | CLO1, CLO3 | |
| * 1. Demonstrate progress on your dissertation. | | CLO1, CLO2, CLO3 | |
| ***Required Learning Resources and Activities****: Students must complete any resources and activities listed in this section as selected by the instructor.* | | ***Alignment*** | ***Pages/AIE/***  ***Generic*** |
| **The State of Your Dissertation**  This course is to allow you access to all the resources of Gwynedd Mercy University as you complete your dissertation. This course is not structured like your previous GMercyU coursework; it has no weekly progress or assignments. Instead, you will have this space in order to communicate to your dissertation advisor, and to communicate with other students working on their dissertations. This space is equivalent to a study hall – a place for reflection, a place for collaboration and encouragement, and a space for work.  During this course, your responsibility is to continue your dissertation work and to keep active communications with your dissertation advisor and your dissertation committee, no matter where you are in the dissertation process. If necessary, you will be re-enrolled in other session of this course to continue and complete your dissertation.  This course is graded on a Pass/Fail basis. To pass, you must show progress towards the completion of your dissertation work. | | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 |  |
| **Collaborating with Your Dissertation Advisor and Dissertation Committee Members**  You will be working with your dissertation advisor to plan and prepare to work on your dissertation. Your dissertation advisor will be your main point of contact about your dissertation, including progress, breakthroughs, and challenges.  You will also have additional support through your dissertation committee members. They can offer a different perspective and insight into working drafts of your dissertation. Due to their commitments, it is imperative that you contact your committee members in advance of submitting any portions of your dissertation for review, as they will likely have to schedule time to review it.  **Schedule** meeting time with your dissertation advisor at least once each week.  **Submit** drafts and progress to your dissertation advisor.  **Prepare** to discuss all aspects of your dissertation, including progress, challenges, and ideas surrounding methodology, focus, institutional review board (IRB), and any other information.  **Alert** the committee members that you will be submitting drafts in the next few weeks.  **Collaborate** with your dissertation advisor. | | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 | Live Discussion = **1 hour** |
| **Dissertation Collaboration: Take Stock of Your Dissertation Progress**  During EDU 814 Dissertation IV, or your previous dissertation course, you should have constructed a detailed plan for finishing your dissertation. You should find your plan and revise it as necessary, keeping in mind any roadblocks that may have prevented you from completing your dissertation earlier.  You will share this plan with your dissertation advisor this week.  At the end of this course, you should evaluate your dissertation completion plan and make sure that you are on track to finish your dissertation on the timeline that you and your dissertation advisor have agreed upon. | | 1.1, 1.2 |  |
| ***Assignments****: Students must complete the weekly assignment(s).* | | ***Alignment*** | ***Points/AIE/***  ***Generic*** |
| **Dissertation Progress Tracker Update**  During your dissertation work, you will use a tracking worksheet to help communicate the status of your dissertation to your dissertation advisor. This update is required in the first and last weeks of all dissertation courses (EDU 811, EDU 812, EDU 813, and EDU 814), but you may wish to send it to your advisor during other checkpoints.  **Review** your progress on your dissertation.  **Evaluate** your dissertation using the Dissertation Progress Tracker.  **Save** your Dissertation Progress Tracker.  *Note*. If you haven’t completed your Dissertation Progress Tracker, you can find a copy at the following web address. Go to File, and Make a Copy of this spreadsheet to share with your dissertation advisor.  <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bTxcOVIlKfR4uiKBIj3AzxzV1cafmeETfkYkbTtwtvI/edit?usp=sharing>  **Share** your updated Dissertation Progress Tracker and your current dissertation work to your dissertation advisor. | | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 | Project log = private posting =  **30 minutes** |
| **Discussion: Collaboration Space**  This discussion space is for you and other students to collaborate, send each other messages of support, and to ask questions to the general community. | |  | Discussion=  **1 hour** |
| **Document Dropbox**  This space is provided to give you and your advisor a convenient place to submit and share files. While there are no required submissions in this course, you should be communicating with your advisor frequently and sharing updates about your work and progress at least once a week. | | 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 | Guided Project =  **3 hour** |
| **Total** |  |  | **9.5 hours** |