Coursework

* Given by lecturers or tutors
* Fixed length and completed
* Clear guidelines are provided

Dissertation

* Personal research on a specific topic
* Don’t know how long it will take to actually complete it
* Might not be completed
* All the works have to do your own
* Lots of argument are presented
* Intended for beneficial works like a solution or contribution

In course work, the outline is provided by tutors or lecturers. The course syllabus, course topics, assignments, and reading texts, and other materials are developed by the lecturer before the start of the semester. With these come a timetable and a work schedule that guides all the activities of the semester. During the semester, I have to read numerous pages and tackle work and assignments every week, prepare for and take exams. However, success in the course is my responsibility. Course work occurs over a span of 15 weeks and what I have during the course is over.

In contrast, the dissertation of my graduate studies requires that I produce almost everything for myself. Rather, I produce this requirement with the help of my supervisor and director. Dissertation writing and research is not an altogether orderly process that involves step-by-step procedure. Research is characterized by false leads, insufficient evidence, goal changes, frustrations, and contradictory findings that forms part of the process Lunenburg &amp; Irby (2008). As argued by Bridges, et al. (2002), these factors have a significant role as they bear witness that the researcher actually conducted the research and engaged in significant thought and work.

Therefore, due to this argument, the lack of external structure and the absence of a formal assignment or syllabus results in difficulties in predicting the duration of the project. Despite the fact that the duration of nine months is allocated to the actual carrying out of the project, there is no specific amount of time allocated for the preparation leading to the research activities Varney (2010). To successfully complete the dissertation, I have to begin with thesis planning and noting down the overall research process before the actual nine months, at least seven to six months prior.

During this period, I have to undertake preliminary research, findings and develop my research problem. Also, I have to conduct bibliographic research and identity the literature that I would use in the dissertation. Moreover, the period involves reading the materials that are necessary to write a research proposal. According to Brown (2014), research work calls for samples during a specific season or the research is centered on particular events, and missing the window of opportunity at the initial steps of the research would add more time to the research.