

Dissertation Topic Prospectus Guidelines

Use this outline to develop your topic prospectus. It will facilitate the conversation with your prospective chair and as you recruit other committee members. You will be expected to attach the completed dissertation topic prospectus to your completed Dissertation Topic & Committee Form. The prospectus should be succinct, about 1-2 pages.

Area	Evaluation Categories	Score
1. Title	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reflects something about the main topic 2. Includes a few of these: key variables, population/sample, or research design 3. All variables, sample, research design issues evident in title 	
2. Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifies chair 2. Methodologist secured 3. Complete committee agreed and vita of non AU faculty included 	
3. Problem (2-3 sentences)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mentions area of problem without much focus 2. Described problem 3. Compelling problem / need stated 	
4. Purpose (2-3 sentences)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vague explanation of purpose 2. Clearer description of purpose (explore, describe, correlate, etc.) 3. Identifies major goal of study and the products that will be produced 	
5. Research Questions (1-3 listed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General question about a general area of inquiry 2. Specific questions 3. Feasible, clear and researchable specific questions 	
6. Methods (2-3 sentences)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of research design is apparent 2. Design, sample, data collection and analysis clearly listed 3. Readiness level to use the chosen research methodologies is indicated 	
7. Bibliography (topics/ areas listed)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vague topical areas listed but not clear 2. Added details are given 3. Specific topical areas, authors and resources are briefly listed 	
8. Consistency / Logic / Alignment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title, problem & purpose, and research questions are stated, but do not align consistently to reflect the logic of your study. 2. Title, problem, purpose, and research questions reflect an emerging logic but one or more elements are still not well aligned. 3. Title, problem statement, purpose and research questions are thoughtfully stated to reflect a consistent logic of your study. 	
9. Connection to work / program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study is not embedded in either work or connected to program parameters. 2. Study is embedded solidly in your work 3. Study is connected well to program parameters. 	
10. Timeline & Budget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vague or unrealistic timeline evident 2. More realistic timetable with enumeration of key components to work 3. Realistic timeline with possible contingencies noted 	
	Total Points	/ 30

Comments: