

Dissertation Social Support and Roles Chart

Duane Covrig Preliminary “reflecting on relationships” grid for dissertating students

Inside University:

Person	Role to You	Main Expectation to Have of This Person	What Person will Expect from you
880 Instructor	Tell and Teach; Some inspiration; Gather useful material; Set Up Experiences to Guide along the way; Transition you from course work to committee work and self-directed research	To set up readings, material and experiences to help you understand the proposal and the dissertation components and processes; Help you organize past course work and reading into a research plan; Provide a space and place to facilitate feedback on your artifacts; to keep directing you to communicate with your chair.	Read material provided—keeping what you find useful, and discarding the rest; Take initiative to find articles, books and read them or find notes from past readings and course work to apply to dissertation proposal; Find the persons needed and initiate the other roles and relationships outlined below
Fellow “Students” in 880 or in the Regional Group	Inspire; Share common growth areas and share by doing; Share useful resources; Keep it positive not regressive or backward looking;	Get feedback from others going through the same process so together you can help simplify steps; Veteran students or recent graduates can have more expert advice; Caution: your committee has the ultimate authority and expertise; but fellow travelers can give you new articles and good new leads that faculty may not have seen; they have done recent literature searches and may know good places	Honesty about your struggles, challenges; Tips you discover that can help them; The same as they give to you (see left)
Chair	Mentor; Closely guide and read your dissertation proposal; Help you make decisions;	This is the main person who will get you through the proposal and dissertation. 880 just gets you communicating with chair through generic artifacts; the chair will help you get specific and shape your skills and the people resources you need to reach your research goals	Receive feedback and do the work they suggest; Challenge chair and committee in an appropriate way so that your growing expertise can help to improve the overall results of the study;
Committee: Content	Expert Mentor Theoretician	This could be the chair or someone else on your committee that has read extensively in your area of study or is most likely to know related material for you to study; They can help you create solid literature review and theories.	Listen, get material, read and then keep writing the literature review to show you have listened to their expertise
Committee: Method	Expert Mentor; Methodologists Savvy Data Collector-Analyzer; Statistician	This could be the chair or someone else on your committee that knows methods and how to frame research questions and data collection and analysis to answer your burning question. They	Read those difficult methods books and related studies and figure out the best methods

		can help you create solid research design.	
Dissertation Secretary:	Final Manuscript Auditor Bonnie Proctor (proctorb@andrews.edu)	More than anyone in the university, this person understands format and style issues; Once you have a polished chapter get feedback so that you can learn proper format from the start	MAKE CORRECTIONS; READ POLICY; Get an editor if that is suggested

Outside University:

Person	Role to You	Main Expectation to Have of This Person	What Each will Expect from you
Immediate Family	Love you regardless; They may have to take up some other roles to let you be focused on this difficult task	Love, slack, understanding, encouragement, time to sleep off an all-nighter;	That you will work on your dissertation and not get side-tracked by the internet or other much more fun experiences; That all you money and hardwork will pay off and you will graduate; That this craziness will someday end. Special trips where you drop it all and just chill with the loved ones
Extended Family	As above but less intense; also, if finances or extra work is needed (folding surveys, typing interviews, etc...) they might actually help		
Boss	Depends on how much your doctorate means to the organization;		
Coworkers			
Friend			

Coach	Give you questions and a point of reflection to get you through	A point of accountability;	Honesty
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