EACS 6970 Prospectus Development Seminar

Instructors:

Jeffrey Maiden, Ph.D.  Courtney Vaughn, Ph.D.
405.325.1524  405.325.1518
Fax 405.325.2403  Fax 405.325.2403
maiden@ou.edu  Vaughn1@ou.edu

Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
555 Constitution
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019-0260
http://www.ou.edu/education/elps/eacs/home.htm

Course Description:

Through the Prospectus Development Seminar, advanced doctoral students are provided a formal venue for developing a dissertation prospectus.

Special Needs Students:

Any student requiring special accommodation in the class due to disability is advised to inform the instructor of his/her special needs. Every effort will be made to ensure that the proper accommodations are made to enhance the learning environment for every student.

Course Objectives:

After completing the seminar, participants will be able to:

- Read and critically evaluate successful dissertations.
- Develop a draft of a prospectus that incorporates all of the elements of successful full prospectus.

The course is intensely student-centered. Most of the class discussions focus on the material presented by students, and all participants are encouraged to provide constructive criticism to other students during these discussions. Such productive dialogue is dependent upon students submitting completed assignments ON TIME and consistent student attendance.
Accordingly, student attendance at every scheduled class session is REQUIRED. Students MUST receive prior permission from either one of the instructors for an absence to be excused (excepting emergencies). Furthermore, all assignments must be submitted before the due date. Any late submission must be approved in advance of the respective due date by either of the instructors (excepting emergencies).

**Required Texts for EACS 6970:**

There are no required texts for the course.

**Online Content Area:**

EDS/EACS 6970 is supplemented with an Online Content Area. Link to learn.ou.edu. Login and select this course and section number. The course Content Area is available through the 'Content' link. The Content Area includes descriptions of the course assignments, along with other useful links (including references that will help in completing course assignments). The 'Links' 'Discussions' Dropbox' and ‘Grades’ links are also active, as is the 'Scheduling Tool' on the left side of the ‘Course Home’ page.

If you have substantive (content) questions, please email Dr. Maiden at maiden@ou.edu. For technical questions, please contact the OU IT Help desk at learn@ou.edu or 405.325.4636 (or search the OU IT Online Support Center at https://webapps.ou.edu/support/).

**Course Requirements:**

Each student should successfully:

1. Read and critically evaluate published dissertations.

2. Write a draft of an acceptable mini-prospectus that incorporates all of the elements of a successful full prospectus (including summary of the problem statement, research questions, literature review, and methodology).

3. Critically evaluate drafts of mini-prospectus of other students in the class.

These three requirements will be manifest in four specific course assignments:

**ASSIGNMENT 1: Critiques of Two Dissertations**

Obtain two published dissertations, preferably including topics related to your research interests. Provide a brief (3-5 pages) critical evaluation of each of the two dissertations. Use the *Elements of a High Quality Dissertation* (provided by the
instructors) in guiding your critiques. Each student should be prepared to discuss the two dissertations during the first third of the course.

Dissertations are available at the OU library (check the online catalogue at http://libraries.ou.edu/).

ASSIGNMENT 2: Mini Prospectus Outline

Provide an outline of a mini-prospectus. The outline should include a minimum of three elements:

• Problem statement
• An outline of the first three chapters
• A two sentence initial draft of each of first two chapters

Use the Elements of a High Quality Prospectus (provided by the instructors) in guiding your outline. Each student should be prepared to discuss the outline during the middle third of the course. The presentation and discussion at the outline stage should focus primarily on the problem statement, research questions, theory and literature.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Mini Prospectus Draft

Provide a minimum 15 page draft of the mini-prospectus to the instructors. Each student should be prepared to discuss the mini-prospectus during the final third of the course. The presentation and discussion at the outline stage should focus primarily on design and methods.

ASSIGNMENT 4: Completed IRB Training

Submit to the instructors a copy of the certificate of completion of IRB training.

Completed assignments should be submitted electronically to both instructors: maiden@ou.edu vaughn1@ou.edu

Grading:

EACS 6970 is graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Students who meet each of the following requirements will receive grades of satisfactory:

• Submit ALL course assignments on time;
• Successfully complete course assignments;
• Have no unexcused absences from class;
• Have no more than two excused absences from class;
• Successfully complete IRB training.