

EdD (Higher Education)
Comprehensive Exam Format
Dissertation Concept Paper (DCP)

In order to advance EdD cohort students toward successful completion of the dissertation and the degree within three years, the comprehensive exam will focus around the Dissertation Concept Paper, the first step in the dissertation process. Students will demonstrate skills and knowledge learned in the program through successful application in the Dissertation Concept Paper.

The steps in completing the comprehensive exam are as follows:

1. Prior to submission at the end of the second year in the program, the student must have discussed the idea with advisor and gotten initial approval to proceed.
2. Write 7-10 page concept paper that addresses
 - a. What: What is the proposed purpose of the dissertation study? What do you want to learn from it? What practical goals do you hope to achieve?
 - b. Why: Why is it important to learn the answers to your questions? That is what gap in the literature is filled by your study or what problem of practice is addressed by your study? How will your workplace be better or different if you do the proposed study?
 - c. Identify the major ideas from the relevant literature and major strengths and weakness of existing literature read about the topic to date.
 - d. How: How do you propose to answer the questions your study seeks to address?
 - e. Who: Who will you study or what data source will you use?
3. The DCP will be submitted at the end of the students' formal coursework. Successful completion is a requirement for proceeding to the third and final year which is focused on the dissertation.
4. The DCP will be "defended" in an oral comprehensive exam.

Stay tuned for the evaluation rubric...