

Counselor Education PhD

Knowledge Of Counseling Education Literature

Goal Description:

Current literature advised practice and research

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

PHD Candidates Will Demonstrate Knowledge Of The Literature

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates of the Counselor Education PHD program will demonstrate knowledge of current literature in the field of counseling to conduct their own independent research.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Quality Dissertation Checklist

Indicator Description:

The Quality Dissertation Checklist will be used to score the introduction, literature review, and methodology of the dissertation proposal.

Criterion Description:

1. All committee members must approve the proposal before the candidate can begin data collection.
2. 85% on the Quality Dissertation Checklist

Last year we realized that perhaps we should start the proposal phase in the first year rather than the second year. We are experimenting with that in 2012-2013.

Findings Description:

All dissertation proposals completed in the past academic year where approved by the entire committee prior to submission of the research study to SHSU's Institutional Research Board and before the candidates began data collection.

This academic year we required doctoral students to select a dissertation chair during the first year of courses in the doctoral program. Prior to their taking the Applications of Counseling Research course, in which they write a first draft of their dissertation proposal, students are to meet several times with their dissertation chair to discuss dissertation topic, population, methodology, and the like. Therefore, students will be better prepared to begin work on their dissertation proposal in the Applications of Counseling Research course. The first cohort following this new initiative will take that course in Spring, 2017.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Dissertation Methodologist

Action Description:

The department is in need of additional faculty who can serve as methodologist on dissertation committees. To this end, we are seeking a candidate with strong research skills to fill the vacant faculty position we will soon have available in our department.

Research Competency

Goal Description:

Candidates demonstrate research competency by original dissertation research.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Demonstrate Competency In Research

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates of the Counseling Education PHD program will demonstrate competency in research by planning, implementing, analyzing, and writing a scholarly dissertation based on original research.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Dissertation Checklist

Indicator Description:

Committee Chair scores the Quality Dissertation Checklist

Criterion Description:

Degree candidates will score at least 95% on the dissertation quality checklist with the understanding that 100% must be achieved before final dissertation approval and graduation.

Using last year's results, we are working toward greater facility in choosing an appropriate methodology by students in the proposal process.

Findings Description:

All degree candidates that graduated in this academic year scored near or above the desired score of 95% on the dissertation quality checklist and every candidate achieved a score of 100% prior to final dissertation approval and graduation.

In order to help students develop greater facility in choosing an appropriate methodology for students prior to the dissertation proposal process, greater emphasis has been placed on methodology in several classes. There is now a stronger emphasis on quantitative methodology selection in the Educational Research class. In addition, students are required to explore various qualitative research methods, select one and use it for a research study in the Qualitative Research class.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Dissertation Methodologist

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Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Unlike previous cohorts that did not select a research mentor until the Spring semester of their second year in the doctoral program, students in the 2015 doctoral cohort will select their research mentor at the end of their first year. This will give student a longer experience with their research mentor and should strengthen their ability to produce quality research.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

All twelve students in doctoral cohort 13/14 selected research mentors during fall 2016 semester. Cohort 13/14 students completed the first year in the doctoral program and selected their research mentor while enrolled in the introduction to research methods course. Having selected a mentor early in the program gives student the opportunity to work on their dissertation research project earlier in the program by focusing research assignments for qualitative and quantitative research courses on dissertation topic. By doing this, students will have most of chapter 2 written prior to enter the proposal writing course.

Plan for Continuous Improvement

Closing Summary:

Two major initiatives will comprise the plan for continuous improvement. They are:

- The department will seek additional faculty to serve as methodologist on dissertation committees. This should be a candidate with strong research skills to fill the vacant faculty position we will soon have available in our department.
- Doctoral students will be required to read current literature concerning client cases to strengthen counseling practice skills. Students will demonstrate their skills during the advanced practicum course while counseling clients.