

**Nova Southeastern University
Abraham S. Fischler College of Education
Syllabus**

I. BENCHMARK PREFIX, NUMBER, AND TITLE: DISR 8966 – Applied Dissertation 1 - Prospectus (3 credits)

II. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Dissertation Chair:

Students work directly with his/her dissertation chair to develop the dissertation prospectus. Students should contact their dissertation chair for any questions regarding this benchmark.

B. Department:

All departments. Please visit the department website for more information or for information about how to contact your dissertation chair: <http://education.nova.edu/departments/>

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Catalog Description: Applied Dissertation 1 - Prospectus focuses on development of the dissertation prospectus, the first benchmark in the dissertation process. Students will work with their dissertation chair to develop the prospectus. Credit for this benchmark will be assigned following approval of the prospectus.

Prerequisite: RES 8100

B. Rationale: DISR 8966 provides the framework to enable students to develop a prospectus. Working closely with his/her dissertation chair, the student will select a research topic/problem/phenomenon and develop the initial components of his/her dissertation. Upon completion of this benchmark, the student will advance to the next stage in the dissertation process, Applied Dissertation 2 - Proposal Development.

IV. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of DISR 8966 the student should be able to

- 1) Identify a research topic/problem/phenomenon.
- 2) Develop a preliminary purpose statement.
- 3) Formulate initial research questions.
- 4) Identify appropriate reference materials to support the research topic/problem/phenomenon.
- 5) Demonstrate effective written communication skills.

The following are the learning outcomes for the Abraham S. Fischler College of Education Doctor of Education program:

1. Demonstrate knowledge learned in the program by applying it to real settings. (Knowledge)
2. Conduct an independent research investigation that contributes to the general body of knowledge in a specific field or profession. (Research)
3. Solve diverse problems using information and skills acquired in the program to create solutions. (Problem solving)
4. Make informed decisions based on ethical and legal principles. (Ethics)
5. Formulate scholarly arguments supported by academic resources. (Communication)

V. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington DC: Author.

Creswell, J. W. (2015). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Galvan, J. L. (2014). *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (6th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pycszak.

Harris, R. A. (2014). *Using sources effectively: Strengthening your writing and avoiding plagiarism* (4th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pycszak.

Joyner, R. L., Rouse, W. A., & Glatthorn, A. A. (2013). *Writing the winning thesis or dissertation: A step-by-step guide* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

Nova Southeastern University, Abraham S. Fischler College of Education. (2016). *Format guide for the applied dissertation*. Retrieved from <http://education.nova.edu/applied-research/writing-and-preparing-the-dissertation.html>

VI. LIST OF ACTIVITIES

These activities are required in order to successfully complete this benchmark. You will be assigned a dissertation chair at the beginning of the semester; if you have not been assigned a dissertation chair within a week of the course start date, please contact your department. Upon assignment of a dissertation chair, please contact your dissertation chair immediately to discuss a plan for developing your prospectus this semester, including identifying target dates for each of the activities listed below.

Activities	Submissions	Target Date
Meet with your dissertation chair and develop a timeline for the semester		Beginning of the semester
Meet with your dissertation committee chair to identify a research topic/problem/phenomenon		
Schedule a one-on-one appointment with the librarian to locate sources on your research topic/problem/phenomenon		
Identify the research approval process in your district/organization		
	Submit the research topic/problem/phenomenon along with justification to support it to your dissertation chair for review	
Meet with your dissertation chair to discuss the preliminary purpose of your study		
	Submit a brief overview of the literature on the research topic/problem/phenomenon	
Identify the potential participants and ensure they will be an accessible population		
Meet with your dissertation chair to discuss initial research questions		
	Submit preliminary purpose and tentative research questions to dissertation chair	
	Submit prospectus draft to dissertation chair	
Meet with your dissertation chair to discuss revisions to the prospectus		
	Submit final prospectus to dissertation chair for approval	
Meet with your dissertation chair to discuss next steps and develop a timeline for completing your dissertation		End of the semester

VII. DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

A. Written Assignment

All assignments should be submitted to the dissertation chair. Please make sure all assignments adhere to the [Format guide for the applied dissertation](#).

The dissertation prospectus is the culminating activity for this benchmark. The prospectus should include an overview of the research topic/problem/phenomenon, justification, preliminary purpose statement, brief overview or identification of the most relevant literature on the topic, and initial/tentative research questions. The prospectus should be approximately 3-5 pages, depending on your topic. The prospectus must include a reference list and should be written in correct APA style.

VIII. GRADING CRITERIA

This course is graded Pass/In Progress. Students will complete a dissertation prospectus, acceptable to the dissertation committee, and submit to their dissertation committee to receive a passing grade. Students who fail to submit a prospectus or submit a prospectus that is not acceptable to the dissertation committee will receive a grade of PR (in progress) until the prospectus has been approved by the dissertation committee. The following rubric will be used as a guide to ensure the Prospectus is acceptable.

Rubric Item	Met	Not Met
The proposed study is meaningful for the local research site or the profession.		
The candidate presented evidence/background/justification of the research topic/problem/phenomenon		
The candidate presented a preliminary purpose statement and initial research questions.		
The preliminary purpose statement and initial research questions are aligned.		
The candidate offered examples from current peer-reviewed literature of sources that demonstrate relevance to the study topic.		

IX. Assistance with APA Formatting and Writing:

Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. (n.d.). *Plagiarism*.

Retrieved from <http://nova.campusguides.com/plagiarism>

Alvin Sherman Library, Research, and Information Technology Center. (n.d.). *Plagiarism-learn what it is and how to avoid it*. Retrieved from

<http://nova.campusguides.com/plag>

American Psychological Association. (2016). *APA style*. Retrieved from

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

American Psychological Association. (2014). *Basics of APA style tutorial*. Retrieved from

<http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>

American Psychological Association. (2015). *What's new in the sixth edition of the*

publication manual. Retrieved from <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/brief-guide.aspx>

The Iris Center. (2016). *IRIS modules*. Retrieved from <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>

[Special Education Resources]

The Purdue Online Writing Lab. (1995-2016). Retrieved from <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

SharkWrites: The Abraham S. Fischler College of Education Writing Resource Center.

(2015). Retrieved from <http://sharkwrites.nova.edu/>

Warlick, D., & The Landmark Project. (2000–2016). *Son of citation machine*. Retrieved

from <http://citationmachine.net/>

Template adopted: May, 2016