

**Abraham S. Fischler College of Education
Benchmark**

I. BENCHMARK PREFIX, NUMBER, AND TITLE: DISR 8969 – Applied Dissertation 4: Final Report (3 credits)

II. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Dissertation Committee Chair:

The student works directly with his/her dissertation committee chair to develop the dissertation proposal. The student should contact his/her dissertation committee chair for any questions regarding this benchmark.

B. Dissertation Support Services:

Please visit the Dissertation Support Services (DSS) website for further information:
<http://education.nova.edu/applied-research/dissertation-support-services.html>

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Catalog Description:

Applied Dissertation 4 focuses on writing the final dissertation report. Upon IRB approval, students will collect data in order to answer the research questions developed in DISR 8968. Students will analyze the data appropriately, write up the results, and discuss the results in context with the current literature. Study implications and future research directions will also be discussed in the final report.

Note: 1. **For all dissertation benchmarks, there is no course in Blackboard.** Instead, the student works directly with his/her dissertation committee.
2. The ADRIANA system (<https://www.adriana.nova.edu>) must be used for all communications between the student, the dissertation committee chair, the dissertation committee member, and other individuals that assist the student with the administration of the dissertation.

B. Prerequisite/s: DISR 8968 - Applied Dissertation 3: Proposal (3 credits)

IV. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

In DISR 8969, the student will:

- Present the results of the study utilizing the appropriate quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods data
- Demonstrate appropriate data analysis to match the methodology utilized
- Demonstrate mastery of technical and scientific writing skills
- Review original findings in relation to the work of others
- Offer recommendations for future study and local practice based on the data presented
- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the particular topic chosen
- Apply the skills, techniques, and knowledge acquired during the dissertation process to complete the final document
- Demonstrate editing and proofreading skills

V. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Note: Based upon the student's specific study and methodology to be used, some of the materials below may prove useful. The student should seek the advice of the dissertation committee chair in identifying them.

Methodology

Burke Johnson, R., & Christensen, L. (2017). *Educational research: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed approaches* (6th ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C.N. (2017). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

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

Creswell, J. W., & Plano Clark, V. L. (2017). *Designing and conducting mixed methods research* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

- Edmonds, A., & Kennedy, T. D. (2017). *An applied reference guide to research designs: Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Fink, A. G. (2016). *How to Conduct Surveys: A Step-by-Step Guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Glesne, C. (2015). *Becoming qualitative researchers: An introduction* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.
- Loseke, D. R. (2016). *Methodological thinking: Basic principles of social research design* (2nd ed.) Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- Merriam, S. B. (1998). *Qualitative research and case study applications in education*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Moustakas, C. (1994). *Phenomenological research methods*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Plano Clark, V. L., & Creswell, J. W. (2008). *The mixed methods reader*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Saldaña, J. (2015). *The coding manual for qualitative researchers* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Smith, J. A., Flowers, P., & Larkin, M. (2012). *Interpretative phenomenological analysis*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- Stake, R. E. (1995). *The art of case study research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Stake, R. E. (2006). *Multiple case study analysis*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.
- Yin, R. K. (2013). *Case study research: Design and methods* (5th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Literature Review

- Galvan, J. L., & Galvan, M.C. (2017). *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences* (7th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.
- Harris, R. A. (2017). *Using sources effectively: Strengthening your writing and avoiding plagiarism* (5th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak.
- Joyner, R. L., Rouse, W. A., & Glatthorn, A. A. (2012). *Writing the winning thesis or dissertation: A step-by-step guide* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press.

APA, Formatting and Writing

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://sherman.library.nova.edu/auth/index.php?aid=880>
- 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. (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>
- American Psychological Association. (2016). *APA style*. Retrieved from http://www.apastyle.org/APA_Style_CENTRAL at <https://sherman.library.nova.edu/auth/index.php?aid=1550>
- The Iris Center. (2016). *IRIS modules*. Retrieved from <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/> [Special Education Resources]

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

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/>

VI. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Students will submit all documents to their dissertation committee chair using the ADRIANA system. Please make sure all submissions adhere to the *Format Guide for the Applied Dissertation* and current APA style. Please use the appropriate dissertation template located on the DSS website: <http://education.nova.edu/applied-research/writing-and-preparing-the-dissertation.html>

Write Chapters 4 and 5: Results and Discussion

Chapter 4 should include:

- a. For Quantitative studies:
 - i. Results presented in sequence as related to each Research Question (RQ)
 - ii. Results are presented but not discussed (this will be done in Chapter 5)
 - iii. Relevant tables and figures are included
 - iv. Statistics appropriate to answer the RQs are used
- b. For Qualitative studies:
 - i. The entire transcript is analyzed for themes as it pertains to all of the research questions.
 - ii. Results should be presented as themes with exemplar quotes.
- c. For Mixed Methods studies:
 - i. Quant and qual data should be appropriately analyzed
 - ii. An analysis of the data integration is included

2. Chapter 5 should include:

- a. Introduction giving an overview of the applied dissertation, including the purpose of the study
 - b. Elaboration and interpretation of the results
 - c. Findings of the study are summarized and linked to relevant prior research
 - d. Implications of the study are discussed
 - e. Limitations of the study are presented
 - f. Recommendations are made for further research
3. Final Format Review
- a. After receiving approval from your dissertation committee, the approved dissertation manuscript that you uploaded through the ADRIANA dissertation tracking system is forwarded to a format reviewer.
 - b. The manuscript is checked for adherence to the format specifications described in this guide. Adherence to APA style is solely the responsibility of the student and the dissertation committee.
 - c. Refer to the Fischler College website for an explanation of the format-review process and for “Tips for a Successful Format Review” (<http://education.nova.edu/applied-research/writing-and-preparing-the-dissertation.html>).

VIII. GRADING CRITERIA

At the beginning of each academic semester, the student and his/her dissertation committee chair will establish a set of expectations that leads to the submission of at least one agreed upon written product. The student must submit this written product to the dissertation committee chair by the end of the 10th week of the semester in the ADRIANA platform. A grade will be issued at the end of the term:

Pass (P) - Student has completed Chapters 4 and 5 and received final format approval. And, the benchmark has been approved in ADRIANA system by both the dissertation committee chair and the dissertation committee member.

In Progress (PR) - Student is in the process of working on Chapters 4 or 5 of the dissertation and demonstrates measurable progress.

No Progress (NPR) – Student has failed to demonstrate measurable progress

Appendix A
Checklist (Chapters 4 and 5 and Format Review)

Chapter 4: Results	
<u>Results</u>	<u>Page number/s in dissertation</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Results presented relative to each research question b) Results are presented in the appropriate format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>For quantitative studies</u> i. Results presented in sequence as related to each RQ ii Results are presented but not discussed here iii Relevant tables and figures are included iv Statistics appropriate to answer the RQs are used <u>For qualitative studies</u> i The entire transcript is analyzed for themes as it pertains to all of the research questions. ii Results should be presented as themes with exemplar quotes. <u>For mixed methods studies</u> i Quantitative and qualitative data should be appropriately analyzed ii An analysis of the data integration is included c) Includes effective use of tables and figures d) Participant data, if necessary, is presented only in appendix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) b) c) d)
Chapter 5: Discussion	
<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Page number/s in dissertation</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Overview of the applied dissertation, including the purpose of the study, is included b) Elaboration and interpretation of results as related to research questions are included c) Findings of the study are summarized and linked to relevant prior research d) Implications of the study are discussed e) Limitations of the study are presented f) Recommendations are made for further research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) b) c) d) e) f)
Format Review	

References

- a) List consistent with citations in text (APA style)
- b) Peer-reviewed research is utilized
- c) If obtained from the internet, include doi, if available

Appendixes

- a) Include instrumentation created by student only
 - b) All necessary information included
 - c) Conforms with the Fischler Guide for the Applied Dissertation (FGAD)
- Note.* Do NOT include any IRB approval documents in the appendix or any other portion of the dissertation

Overall

- a) Consistent with APA and FGAD
- b) Chapters 1-3 changed from present/future to past verb tense (where appropriate)
- c) Relates to relevant literature when discussing the findings of the study in Chapter 5
- d) Identifies and clarifies any changes from the proposal