

Dr. Charles L. Faires Dissertation of Distinction Award

Dimension	Eligibility Criteria
Approval Date	The student's dissertation must be <i>fully approved</i> during the current academic year.
Introduction/ Statement of the Problem	Introduction/Statement of the Problem includes: -a clearly conveyed project within context of literature, -a strong rationale, -a clear and concise problem statement with appropriate evidence to support the existence of the problem, -a detailed discussion of the gaps in the literature, and -a clear and focused purpose statement.
Review of Literature	The literature review includes: -a comprehensive review of current, scholarly, peer-reviewed, and empirical literature relevant to the study (i.e., sufficient detail of research participants, data collection procedures, and relevant findings of the empirical research studies), -a well-organized, succinct <i>synthesis</i> of the research literature with identified academic gaps that will guide the dissertation study, and -a well-explained theoretical/conceptual framework(s) that is appropriate to the proposed study.
Research Questions	RQs are well written, appropriate, comprehensive, and align well with the problem, purpose, design, data collection procedures, and data analysis procedures.
Methods / Approach	The methodology includes: -a detailed and appropriate description of participants, sampling procedures, design/approach, methods/procedures; -data analysis procedures that are appropriate and aligned with the RQs and method (e.g., analysis of case study, phenomenology, quantitative, mixed methods, etcetera); and -a detailed discussion of the timing, sequence and weight of the qualitative and quantitative strands of the study (mixed methods studies only).
Results /Outcomes	All pertinent results are reported clearly and concisely. - For qualitative studies, significant findings, themes generated from analysis, and exemplar quotes that highlight themes are included. -For quantitative studies, statistics (e.g., means, SD, test statistics, p values) are reported correctly and hypothesis testing was used appropriately. -For mixed methods studies, the qualitative and quantitative strands are reported correctly (see above), and the data from both strands are presented in a way that represents a mixing or merging of the results. Tables, Figures and/or Appendices are -appropriately used to illustrate/support the results, -labeled appropriately with a legend and/or exemplar examples from the data/interviews.
Discussion & Summary	The Discussion includes: -a brief and concise discussion of major findings/outcomes; -results discussed appropriately in the context of the relevant literature; -for mixed methods studies, the qualitative findings and quantitative results are correctly combined, integrated or merged as part of the discussion; -a superior, accurate, engaging, and thought-provoking discussion of the findings;

Dimension	Eligibility Criteria
	<p>-conclusions/summaries, implications, and recommendations that are appropriate and clearly based on outcomes; and</p> <p>-a detailed description of the study limitations, including threats to the internal and external validity of the study for quantitative studies and a discussion of the boundaries of the study and data collection for qualitative studies.</p>
<i>Writing Quality</i>	<p>The dissertation is written with clarity and precision.</p> <p>The writing demonstrates strong awareness of context, purpose, and audience, using discipline-specific language appropriately and effectively.</p> <p>The writing shows a strong use of appropriate sources that add depth and knowledge to the content.</p> <p>The resources are integrated seamlessly and are formatted correctly.</p> <p>The writing is grammatically and mechanically strong.</p> <p>The correct use of APA is demonstrated throughout the dissertation.</p>
<i>Overall Contribution to the Field</i>	<p>Overall, the dissertation is original, significant, innovative, and makes a significant contribution to practice.</p>