



UT Tyler COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION & PSYCHOLOGY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Ed.D. in School Improvement

EDSI 6161.063 – Dissertation Spring 2026

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Course Description

The course is intended to guide Ed.D. students through the dissertation process, including the identification of a problem related to school improvement, the preparation of a proposal for approval by the dissertation committee, development of a protocol for Institutional Review Board (IRB) review and approval, and sustained writing toward completion of the dissertation.

Students must enroll in this course starting in their second semester of the program and continue to register in a dissertation course until completion of the dissertation.

Program Goals

- a. Produce the next generation of educational leaders who understand the philosophical and historical perspectives of school reform, diversity, learning opportunities for all, and can address educational issues using a variety of strategies.
- b. Develop critical reasoning and a deep understanding of change theory to address challenges in school improvement contexts. This will include the skills to provide transformative leadership to schools that are failing to meet academic, social, and emotional standards.
- c. Provide opportunities to develop doctoral students' ability to approach challenges in innovative data-driven ways, including the use of interdisciplinary teams, as well as expand their problem solving, creative design, communication, and collaboration skills.
- d. Challenge the norms within educational systems using data and the engagement of other educators and stakeholders in professional learning to lead disruptive change through interdisciplinary work with experts in other educational fields.
- e. Conduct research of practice and responsiveness to improve teaching and learning experiences, counseling and support services, school leadership, educational organizations and structures, and all other educational disciplines.
- f. Prepare the next generation of educators with the knowledge, skills and tools to utilize data to guide school improvement and policy and to improve learning outcomes leading to college and career readiness.
- g. Prepare educators with a deep understanding of assessment and accountability systems.
- h. Produce scholar practitioners that have a P-20 perspective of the education system to address school improvement in the broader perspective including educator preparation, teaching and learning.

School Improvement Dissertation

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate sustained scholarly engagement related to their dissertation study.
2. Prepare and submit IRB materials and respond to required revisions, as applicable.
3. Develop and revise dissertation chapters appropriate to the student's cohort and stage of study.
4. Document progress toward required dissertation milestones through drafts, consultations, and written communication.
5. Present and discuss the status of the dissertation study with peers and the instructor.
6. Maintain required dissertation documentation, including literature review materials, in alignment with program expectations.

Course Content and Evaluation

| Assignment | Description |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| IRB | IRB Approvals and Modifications |
| Weekly Updates/Consultations | Canvas Update and Phone/Zoom Consultations (3) |
| Annotate Bibliography | Submit Running Annotated Bibliography |
| Chapter 1: POP-Intro | Submit Draft Chapter 1 |
| Chapter 2: Literature Review | Submit Draft Chapter 2 |
| Chapter 3: Evaluation Study | Submit Draft Chapter 3 |
| Chapter 4: Evaluation of Intervention | Submit Draft Chapter 4 |
| Manuscript Review | Most recent manuscript draft(s) |

Required Textbook

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th Edition

Grading Criteria: (IP or NP).

IP reflects that the student has met course expectations for the semester and will earn credit upon successful defense of the dissertation.

NP is failing.

Relevant Websites

TEA Websites

Comparison Groups

<https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/account/2019/group.srch.html>

Texas Academic Performance Reports

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/texas-academic-performance-reports>

Accountability

<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/accountability/academic-accountability/performance-reporting/2019-accountability-rating-system>

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Other Useful Sites

www.eval.org The website for the American Evaluation Association, the leading professional association for evaluators. See also, www.eval.org/hstlinks.htm, which is AEA's chronicle of state-based activities on high-stakes student testing.

www.wmich.edu/evalctr

Western Michigan University's Center for Evaluation, which is one of the premier sites for thought and practice in evaluation.

<http://ericae.net>

The ERIC Clearinghouse for Assessment and Evaluation. Also chronicles education news from media outlets around the country.

<http://oerl.sri.com>

The Online Evaluation Resource Library catalogues plans, data collection instruments and evaluation reports.

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) reviews the existing research on different programs, products, practices, and policies in education. Our goal is to provide educators with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions.

Video Resources

- IES Evaluation Overview <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/projects/evaluation/>
- Types of Program Evaluations <https://youtu.be/XNR3KZzDoGQ>
- Program Evaluation 101 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGsNJ1jIJD0>
- Logic Models https://youtu.be/2HrG5ButP_g
- IES Logic Models in Education <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DAAjgc4YYo>
- IES From Logic Model to Program Evaluation
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhbPd2dyXOQ>
- Impact Evaluation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HEJIT8t5ezU>
- Program Evaluation Standards <https://evaluationstandards.org/program/>

School Improvement Dissertation

College of Education and Psychology

Core Purpose of the College of Education and Psychology

To prepare competent, caring, and qualified professionals in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling, to foster discovery, and to advance the knowledge base in our respective disciplines.

Vision

The College of Education and Psychology will be a global leader in responding to needs in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling, with a focus on the East Texas region, by creating innovative academic and scholarly pathways and partnerships.

Mission

The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to prepare competent and passionate professionals in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling; to advance knowledge and expertise; and to impact these fields locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally