

EDSI 6162.066 – Dissertation

Instructor: Dr. Dana Morris

Term: Fall 2026

Online includes occasional scheduled synchronous sessions TBD

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 dissertation committee, a protocol for review and approval by Institutional Review Board and writing 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. Document ongoing research related to the dissertation.
2. IRB Submission and Modifications
3. Complete Chapters 1-3 (Cohort 1); Chapters 1-2 (Cohort 2)
4. Continue Annotated Bibliography
5. Present the status of the research project to colleagues.
6. Prepare Literature Review Manuscript for Journal Submission by end of Summer

Required Textbook

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th Edition

Course Expectations

Course Content and Evaluation

Assignment	Description
IRB	IRB Approvals and Modifications
Weekly Updates/Consultations	Canvas Update and Phone/Zoom Consultations (3)
Annotated 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)

Grading Criteria: (IP or NP).

IP reflects that you met the course expectations and will earn credit once you have successfully defended your dissertation.

NP is Failing

Resources

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>

School Improvement Dissertation

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=ZGsNJ1jJJD0>

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

Bibliography

- Abbott, M. L. (2010). *The program evaluation prism: Using statistical methods to discover patterns*. Wiley Publishing.
- Alkin, M. C. (1979). *Using evaluations: Does evaluation make a difference?* (SAGE Library of Social Research). SAGE.
- Alkin, M. C. (1985). *A guide for evaluation decision makers*. SAGE.
- Alkin, M. C. (2004). *Evaluation roots: Tracing theorists' views and influences*. SAGE.
- Alkin, M. C. (2010). *Evaluation essentials: From A to Z*. Guilford Press.
- Altschuld, J. W., Eastmond, Jr. J. N., King, J. A., Kumar, D. D., Stevahn, L., White, J. L. (2009). *The needs assessment KIT*. SAGE.
- Bamberger, M. (2000). *Integrating quantitative and qualitative research in development projects*. World Bank Publications.
- Bemelmans-Videc, M. L., Lonsdale, J., Perrin, B. (Eds.). (2007). *Making accountability work: Dilemmas for evaluation and audit*. Transaction Publishers.
- Chelimsky, E., Shadish, W. R. (Eds.). (1997). *Evaluation for the 21st century*. SAGE.
- Chen, H.T. (2005). *Practical program evaluation: assessing and improving planning, implementation, and effectiveness*. SAGE.
- Colton, D., Covert, R. W. (2007). *Designing and constructing instruments for social research and evaluation*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.
- Cousins, J. B., Earl, L. M. (Eds.). (1995). *Participatory evaluation in education: Studies of evaluation use and organizational learning*. Falmer Press.
- Davidson, E. J. (2004). *Evaluation methodology basics: The nuts and bolts of sound evaluation*. SAGE.
- Davidson, E. J. (2012). *Actionable evaluation basics: Getting succinct answers to the most important questions*. Real Evaluation Ltd.
- Denzin, N. K., Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (2003). *Collecting and interpreting qualitative materials* (2nd ed.). SAGE.
- Earl, S., Carden, F., Smutylo, T. (2002). *Outcome mapping: building learning and reflection into development programs*. International Development Resource Center.

School Improvement Dissertation

- Fitzpatrick, J. L., Sanders, J. R., Worthen, B. R. (2003). *Program evaluation: Alternative approaches and practical guidelines* (3rd ed.). Pearson Allyn & Bacon Publishing.
- Frechtling, J., Sharp, L. (1997). *User-friendly handbook for mixed method evaluation*. DIANE Publishing Company.
- Frechtling, J. (2007). *Logic modeling methods in program evaluation*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.
- Funnell, S. C., Rogers, P. J. (2011). *Purposeful program theory: Effective use of theories of change and logic models*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.
- Greene, J. C. (2007). *Mixed methods in social inquiry*. Jossey Bass Wiley.
- Guba, E. G., Lincoln, Y. S. (1989). *Fourth generation evaluation*. SAGE.
- Guba, E. G., Lincoln, Y. S. (1992). *Effective evaluation: Improving the usefulness of evaluation results through responsive and naturalistic approaches*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.
- Gullickson, A. R. (2008). *The personnel evaluation standards: How to assess systems for evaluating educators*. Corwin Press.
- Gupta, K., Sleezer, C. M., Russ-Eft, D. F., (2007). *A practical guide to needs assessment*. Pfeiffer Publishing.
- Hatry, H. P., Wholey, J. S. (1999). *Performance measurement: Getting results*. Urban Institute Press.
- House, E. R. (1973). *School evaluation: The politics and process*. McCutchan Publishing Corp.
- House, E. R. (1980). *Evaluating with validity*. SAGE.
- Jason, L. A., Glenwick, D. S. (2012). *Methodological approaches to community-based research*. American Psychological Association.
- Kaser, J. S., Bourexis, P. S., Loucks-Horsley, S., Raizen, S. A. (1999). *Enhancing program quality in science and mathematics*. Corwin Press.
- Kellaghan, T., Stufflebeam, D. L. (Eds.). (2003). *International handbook of educational evaluation*. Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- King, J. A., Morris, L. L., Fitz-Gibbon, C. T. (1997). *How to assess program implementation*. SAGE.

School Improvement Dissertation

- King, J. A., Stevahn, L. A. (2012). *Interactive evaluation practice: Mastering the interpersonal dynamics of program evaluation*. SAGE.
- Krueger, R. A. (1997). *Analyzing and reporting focus group results (Focus Group Kit)*. SAGE.
- Krueger, R. A. (1997). *Developing questions for focus groups (Focus Group Kit)*. SAGE.
- Krueger, R. A. (1997). *Moderating focus groups (Focus Group Kit)*. SAGE.
- Krueger, R.A., Casey, M.A. (2008). *Focus groups: A practical guide for applied research* (4th ed.). SAGE.
- Krueger, R. A., King, J. A. (1997). *Involving community members in focus groups (Focus Group Kit)*. SAGE.
- Lipsey, M. A., Wilson, D. B. (2000). *Practical meta-analysis*. SAGE.
- Mark, M. M., Henry, G. T., Julnes, G. (2000). *Evaluation: An integrated framework for understanding, guiding, and improving policies and programs*. Jossey-Bass Publishing.
- Mattessich, P. W., Hendricks, S., Roholt, R.V. (2007). *Information gold mine: Using evaluation results in fundraising, staffing advocacy, impact, and more*. Fieldstone Alliance.
- McDavid, J. C., Huse, I., Hawthorn, L. R. L. (2012). *Program evaluation and performance measurement: An introduction to practice*. (2nd ed.) SAGE.
- Mertens, D. M. (2008). *Transformative research and evaluation*. Guilford Publications.
- Mertens, D. M. (2009). *Research and evaluation in education and psychology: Integrating diversity with quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods* (3rd ed.). SAGE.
- Mertens, D. M., Wilson, A. T. (2012). *Program evaluation theory and practice: A comprehensive guide*. Guilford Publications.
- Mertens, D. M., McLaughlin, J. A. (2003). *Research and evaluation methods in special education*. Corwin Press.
- Morris, M. (Ed.). (2007). *Evaluation ethics for best practice*. The Guilford Press.
- Newman, D. L., Brown, R.D. (2002). *Applied ethics for program evaluation*. SAGE
- Parsons, B. A. (2002). *Evaluative inquiry: Using evaluation to promote student success*. SAGE.

School Improvement Dissertation

- Patton, M. Q. (1987). *How to use qualitative methods in evaluation*. SAGE.
- Patton, M. Q. (2001). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (3rd ed.). SAGE.
- Patton, M. Q. (2003). *Practical evaluation*. SAGE.
- Phillips, C. C, Knowlton, L. W. (2008). *The logic model guidebook: Better thinking for great results*. SAGE.
- Preskill, H., Russ-Eft, D. (2004). *Building evaluation capacity: 72 activities for teaching and training*. SAGE.
- Ridge, J. B. (2010). *Evaluation techniques for difficult to measure programs: For education, nonprofit, grant funded, business and human service programs*. Xlibris Corp.
- Rodríguez-Campos, L., Rigoberto, R. G. (2012). *Collaborative evaluations: Step-by-step*. Stanford University Press.
- Ryan, K. E., Cousins, J. B. (2009). *The SAGE international handbook of educational evaluation*. SAGE.
- Sanders, J. R., The Committee on Standards for educational evaluation (1994). *The program evaluation standards: How to assess evaluations of educational programs* (2nd ed.). SAGE.
- Sanders, J. R., Sullins, C. D. (2000). *Evaluating school programs: An educator's guide* (2nd ed.). Corwin Press.
- Shadish, W. R., Cook, T. D., Leviton, L. C. (1990). *Foundations of program evaluation: Theories of Practice*. SAGE.
- Shaw, I. F. (1996). *Evaluating in practice*. Ashgate Publishing.
- Shaw, I. F. (1999). *Qualitative evaluation*. SAGE, Ltd.
- Shaw, I. F., Gould, N. (2001). *Qualitative research and social work practice*. SAGE, Ltd.
- Shaw, I. F. (2012). *Practice and research*. Ashgate Publishers.
- Shaw, I. F., Greene, J. C., Mark, M. M. (2006). *The SAGE handbook of evaluation*. SAGE, Ltd.
- Stake, R. E. (2004). *Standards-based and responsive evaluation*. SAGE.
- Thomas, W. H. (2011). *The basics of project evaluation and lessons learned*. Productivity Press.

School Improvement Dissertation

Wholey, J. S., Hatry, H. P., Newcomer, K. E. (Eds.). (2011). *Handbook of practical program evaluation* (3rd ed.). Jossey-Bass Publishing.

Yarbrough, D. B., Shulha, L. M., Hopson, R. K., Caruthers, F. A. (2010). *The program evaluation standards: A guide for evaluators and evaluation users* (3rd ed.) SAGE.

Zimmerman, M., Holden, D. (2008). *A practical guide to program evaluation planning*. SAGE.

Journals/Series

Advances in program evaluation. Greenwich, CT: JAI.

American journal of evaluation. Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

Educational assessment, evaluation, and accountability. New York, NY: Springer.

Educational evaluation and policy analysis. Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

Evaluation and program planning. Elsevier.

Evaluation in education and human services. New York, NY: [Springer].

Evaluation review. (E. Michael Foster, Ed.). Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

Research evaluation. Surrey, UK: Beech Tree Publishing

Studies in educational evaluation. Elsevier.

School of Education (SOE) Mission

The mission of the SOE is to prepare competent and passionate professionals in the field of education; to advance knowledge and expertise; and to impact these fields locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

SOE Vision

The SOE will be a global leader in responding to needs in the field of education with a focus on the East Texas region, by creating innovative academic and scholarly pathways and partnerships.