Students must successfully complete their comprehensive portfolio assessment (before registering for or
taking EDUC 998, the Dissertation Proposal Seminar.

The purpose of the EDUC 998 Dissertation Proposal Seminar is to assist students in preparing their
dissertation proposals. In this seminar, students generate:

1. A clearly defined problem statement or task;
2. A review of the research literature; and
3. A description of the methods that will be employed to address the research question.

To accomplish these goals, students prepare short reviews and statements, submit them for the analysis
of their peers and provide feedback to fellow students about the quality of their reviews and statements.
Developing the completed dissertation proposal, however, is the responsibility of the student and the
doctoral dissertation committee. Procedures for developing a dissertation may be found in the
Dissertation Guide for the Ph.D. in Education Program.

All students must take at least three credits of EDUC 998. Unless waived by prior approval of a written
request from the student's doctoral dissertation advisor and approved by the Ph.D. in Education Director,
students must enroll in EDUC 998 -- Dissertation Proposal Seminar -- each semester after completing
their comprehensive portfolio assessment until they have an approved dissertation proposal. Students
receive an IP (In Progress) grade in EDUC 998 each semester until they have met this requirement. They
receive an S grade (Satisfactory) in the course at the conclusion of the semester in which their proposal
has been presented and approved by their dissertation committee.

If a student, along with the professor teaching EDUC 998 and the chair of the student's
dissertation committee, all agree that the student has derived sufficient benefit from the class
meetings of EDUC 998, but is not yet ready for a proposal presentation, the student may register
for one credit of EDUC 998 while working with the dissertation chair on a completed proposal.
Students preparing their proposal must register for EDUC 998 each semester (Fall or Spring) until
the proposal has been successfully defended and may also register for EDUC 998 during the
Summer if their schedule so indicates or if the proposal is to be defended in the Summer.

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See
  http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/].

- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with
  the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their
  instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See http://ods.gmu.edu/].

- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See
  http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html].

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their
  George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and
check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

**Campus Resources**

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance [See http://caps.gmu.edu/].

- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/].

- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See http://gse.gmu.edu/].