

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal  
EDUC 998 002 (Variable credit)

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.**

#### **GMU POLICIES AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code (See

<http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).

- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (See

<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).

- c. 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.
- d. 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/>).
- e. 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/>).
- f. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- g. 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/>).

## **PROFESSIONAL DISPOSITIONS**

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

## **CORE VALUES COMMITMENT**

The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website <http://gse.gmu.edu/>.**