

PSYC 9310 Dissertation in Psychology –

Counseling Psychology Faculty, Fall 2023-

Summer 2024

This is a variable credit course. The student can register for 1-9 hours as needed.

- B. Catalogue Description:** Students will carry out an original and substantial research project with the approval of their advisors and dissertation committee. They must be able to present an oral defense of the research to the dissertation committee at the time of completion. Students enrolled in the course must continue to enroll until the course is successfully completed. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate school; Admission to graduate program in the Psychology & Counseling department; and successful completion of doctoral qualifying examinations and admission to candidacy.

- C. Purpose:** The purpose of the course is to demonstrate the ability to develop a research idea, implement the idea, and complete a report on this original research of a significant nature in the field of school psychology.

D. Required Texts

American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th Ed.)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association.

Thesis and dissertation preparation guide of the University of Central Arkansas (2005)
(Available from UCA Graduate School office.)

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course and are accessible to students through the instructor's web page.

F. Use of Technology

Students are expected to utilize technology in a variety of ways throughout this course including (a) communicating with the instructor via electronic mail, (b) utilizing web sites related to course content, and (c) using word processing programs to complete class assignments. In addition, they will be using statistical packages to analyze their dissertation data and will publish the results of their dissertation on a web page.

G. Diversity

The diversity of students' cultural background will be respected and discussed in this class as it pertains to course content as a means of (a) increasing students' understanding of their own unique cultural experiences and world views, (b) increasing students' acceptance and effectiveness and dealing with cultural differences between each other, (c) increasing students' acceptance and effectiveness and dealing with cultural differences between themselves their child, adolescent, and adult clientele, and (d)

encouraging students to advocate for cultural sensitivity and tolerance within their profession.

H. Course Objectives

Upon completion of the dissertation, the student must have completed a document that illustrates the ability to generate and complete a significant independent research project. This project must be completed in a timely fashion and collaboration must occur at appropriate intervals with the dissertation advisor and committee. The document must conform to guidelines established by the dissertation committee and the Graduate Council of the University.

I. Course Outline and Content

Content Outline

1. Select a dissertation advisor and committee
2. Develop the research idea
3. Secure approval of the idea from the advisor and committee
4. Carry out the research
5. Write the report and defend it to the dissertation committee

J. Field Experience

N/A

K. Course Outcomes/Requirements/Evaluation

The student's performance is assessed periodically during the dissertation by the supervisor and the dissertation committee. The final grade will be CR (completed, for credit) as determined by the dissertation advisor and the dissertation committee – other grades will be a PR (in progress).

L. Attendance and Professionalism

All assignments must be completed and meetings attended on time and in a professional manner becoming a doctoral-student in counseling psychology.

M. Student Handbook Policies

Students are expected to follow the policies regarding academic dishonesty, sexual harassment, and academic issues as outlined in the most current version of the UCA Student Handbook. Students should familiarize themselves with all policies listed in the Handbook.

The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act, please notify the professor and the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3135.