

# Dissertation

The dissertation is the final product required from a student to obtain a Ph.D. degree. It consists of a document describing an original research project executed by the student. The main role of a student's advisor is to guide him/her through the process of producing the dissertation. The process of dissertation production always includes the following steps:

## ***Definition of the dissertation topic***

The REM student should identify a suitable topic for the dissertation in consultation with his/her advisor. Examples of dissertations completed by REM students are below:

*A simulation study on the performance of four multidimensional IRT scale linking methods*, by Youhua Wei, 2008.

*Robustness in confirmatory factor analysis the effect of sample size, degree of non-normality, model, and estimation method on accuracy of estimation for standard errors*, by Youngkyoung Min, 2008.

*The impact of nonnormality on the asymptotic confidence interval for an effect size measure in multiple regression*, by Lou Ann Mazula Cooper, 2007.

*Comparing Poisson, Hurdle, and ZIP model fit under varying degrees of skew and zero-inflation*, by Jeffrey Monroe Miller, 2007.

## ***Proposal Meeting***

The proposal meeting is a formal evaluation of the dissertation proposal. The dissertation proposal must include (but is not limited to) the introduction, research questions, literature review, and methods section. In the proposal meeting, the committee members evaluate the relevance of the study, the appropriateness of the methods, and whether the student is adequately prepared to conduct the research, as well as other issues pertinent to the student's proposal.

## ***Dissertation Defense***

In order to schedule the dissertation defense, the student must have a dissertation document which has been reviewed and approved by the committee chair. The student should schedule the dissertation defense taking into consideration that some time may be required after the defense for reviews before the final version of the dissertation can be submitted to the Graduate School. All Supervisory Committee members must attend the dissertation defense and sign the EDT Submission Approval form or signature pages and the Final Examination Report. All requirements for the doctorate must be completed within 5 years after the qualifying examination, or this examination must be repeated. In no case may the final examination be scheduled earlier than the semester preceding the term the degree is to be conferred.

In the semester in which the student expects to graduate, students must file a degree application with the Office of the University Registrar at the start of the final term, and must be registered for at least 3 credit

hours (2 credit hours during summer) in EDF 7934 – Doctoral Research. The student must also meet the deadline for submitting the dissertation. These deadlines can be obtained from the Office of the University Registrar website. When the thesis or dissertation is ready to be put in final form, the student should review the format requirements on the Editorial page of the Graduate School website.