



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

Spring 2011 Semester

DBA Dissertation Seminar (BA 510)

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

The DBA Dissertation Seminar prepares students to begin the dissertation phase of their doctoral study program. This course provides students with individualized instruction guiding them toward the selection of a dissertation topic that is sufficiently well defined to ensure its successful pursuit and narrow enough in its scope that the student can expect to complete their project within a reasonable time frame. Further, this course provides students with a framework for dissertation research enabling them to select a research area and topic that will provide meaningful results to practitioners in that field. Students in this course are required to work with the instructor in selecting a dissertation research topic and develop a formal comprehensive dissertation research proposal. Upon completion of this course, the student will present this research proposal to the DBA Program Committee for approval to begin their dissertation research project. (3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of all DBA core courses and DBA candidacy standing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The focus of this course is to prepare the student to begin the dissertation phase of their DBA program. Students in this course will be required to explore a variety of research topics of interest to them and work with the instructor in reducing the range of topics to one that is feasible to undertake and sufficient in scope and depth to become their dissertation research project. In order to make this choice, the student will interact with their instructor exploring critical issues such as available data sources, appropriate research methodologies applicable to their topic, appropriate tools for data analysis, and the potential value of the information produced by their research. Once the final topic selection is agreed upon, the student will proceed to develop a comprehensive formal dissertation research proposal based on the dissertation guidelines provided by the course instructor (applicable to all dissertations). The objective of the dissertation seminar is to enable each student to have an instructor critiqued and accepted doctoral dissertation proposal in final form ready to present to the DBA Program Committee for approval to begin their dissertation research project.

COURSE CONTENT

Students will be provided with a set of current Institutional guidelines relating to the format, structure and content required for preparation and presentation of their Doctoral dissertation research project. These guidelines apply to all dissertations and provide a detailed framework within which students develop their research hypothesis, research methodology, data gathering process, data analysis, research outcomes and conclusions and recommendations. The instructor will review preliminary topics proposed by students discussing the pros and cons of pursuing research in these areas. The instructor will also suggest means of altering or modifying topics in order to make research in that area more feasible and productive. Presentations will be provided by the instructor, illustrating samples of current research in similar areas that serve to support student efforts to refine both their topic and approach to research in that field. Students will be required to do a formal presentation of their research proposals for critique by the instructor and their fellow students at the completion of the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I Selection of Dissertation Topic (Weeks 1-3)

Students, in concert with the instructor, will select and evaluate a range of dissertation research topics of interest to them. This range will be narrowed to a few possible choices based on instructor input regarding each topic's research feasibility, the likelihood that the research will provide a useful outcome, and whether the research could be completed within a reasonable time frame. Students would then pick one topic from among a limited number of choices remaining as the selection for their dissertation research project.

Part II Guidelines for the Dissertation Research Project (Weeks 4-6)

Students will be presented with the Institutional guidelines that they are to use in the development and publication of their dissertation. The instructor will take the students through a discussion of the format and structure requirements for the development of their dissertation. Coverage will include development of a research hypothesis, description of the research methodology to be employed, data collection plan, methodology for data analysis and evaluation of the research results, development of an assessment of the research results, and, the construction of a final section citing the value and application of the research including conclusions and recommendations.

Part III Dissertation Research Project Proposal Development (Weeks 7-12)

During this portion of the course students will focus on the development of a formal proposal supporting their topic selection, research process, and the nature of the results expected. The course instructor will work with individual students as questions arise related to their research project or concerns surface as to the feasibility of the student's research as proposed or their planned research methodology. Students are expected to have a final draft of their dissertation

research project proposal ready for presentation to the instructor and class by the end of this course segment.

Part IV Research Proposal Presentation (Week 13)

Student presentations will be critiqued by the Instructor and students to provide each student with feedback designed to strengthen their proposal in terms of being a convincing rationale for undertaking specified research study.

Part V Submission of Research Proposal in Final Form (Weeks 13-15)

Students have two weeks to incorporate Instructor and Student presentation feedback into their research proposals. Dissertation Research Project Proposals presented to the Instructor in final form complete the student's requirements for this course. It is expected that this document will also be presented for review and approval by the DBA Program Committee as the student's next step toward beginning their dissertation research.

Grading: grades **CR** (credit) or **NC** (no credit) only will given for this course

Last revision: December 2010.