



LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

BA 597 – DBA Dissertation I

Fall 2013 Course Syllabus

CREDIT HOURS:	3 semester units = 180 self-study hours
INSTRUCTOR (ADVISOR)	To be selected by students and approved by the Program Director or the Chief Academic Officer
CONTACT INFORMATION & HOURS:	To be arranged by the advisor
COURSE TIME & LOCATION:	Self-Study
PREREQUISITES:	Completion of all DBA core courses, DBA candidacy standing, and BA 510. Advisor's approval is required.
TEXT & MATERIALS:	To be designated by the advisor or the Program Director
REFERENCE MATERIALS:	To be designated by the advisor or the Program Director

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to orient and familiarize the student with the first stage of the doctoral thesis research process. The student researches a subject of interest for an appropriate thesis topic, with the focus on the need to have a manageable research project, using relevant data and research methodology and analytic tools applicable to the subject and approach. Research for this topic will address current literature in the field and the way in which literature searches are conducted. The course then addresses an overview analysis of research options, and data collection techniques and requirements appropriate to the subject of study. Completion of this course requires the student to write the first chapter of the dissertation establishing the structure and organization for the study, and the need and research basis for the continuation of the study, submitting this information to the dissertation advisor and doctoral committee for approval. (3 units) *Prerequisites: Completion of all DBA core courses, DBA candidacy standing, and BA 510. Advisor's approval is required.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have:

- Gained an understanding the need for, and approaches possible, for a dissertation study of choice;
- Examined research methodology and options appropriate to the study;
- Explored how to locate literature in the field to establish what history exists within the subject selected;
- Identified the research topic resulting in the statement of the problem;
- Selected a dissertation advisor with an academic perspective applicable to the subject addressed;
- Prepared and presented the essential components of Chapter I of the dissertation to the Advisor and Doctoral Committee.

COURSE PROCESS AND STRUCTURE:

Students taking this course must fill in and submit the approval form and the progress form (available at the University's Admissions and Records Office) with the advisor's signature before starting the dissertation work.

1. Create an awareness of the components of a doctoral dissertation, to include: 1) chapter introduction; 2) study background; 3) statement of problem; 4) professional significance of the study; 5) methodology overview; 6) study delimitations; and 7) key term definitions.
2. Presentation of research options that address the following elements: 1) methodology; 2) general perspective; 3) research context; 4) research participants; 5) explanation of instruments used for data collection; 6) discussion of procedures used; 7) explanation of data analysis methods; and 8) summary of methodology.
3. Establish the parameters for review of the literature;
4. Examine the proposed subject of study and identified how to establish Statement of the Problem;
5. Delineate the parameters of the study;
6. Define the nature of the professional academic relationship with a dissertation advisor;
7. Engage in development of a draft of the presentation of Chapter I of the study;
8. Role-play presentation of the study for critical review, preparatory to submitting the written draft to the Doctoral Committee.

EVALUATION:

Accepted Draft of Chapter I of the Dissertation: 100%

The student will present a draft of Chapter I of the Dissertation for Dissertation Committee review and discussion. Successful course completion requires submittal of a written presentation, and defense of subject and approach, as applicable, acceptable to the Doctoral Committee.

GRADING: Grade of **CR** (credit) **or NC** (no credit) **only** will be given for this course.

Revised: August 13, 2013

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY
401 FIFTEENTH STREET, OAKLAND, CA 94612
phone: (510) 628-8010 fax: (510) 628-8012

BA 597, BA 598, BA 599
DBA DISSERTATION APPROVAL FORM

STUDENT NAME (Last Name, First Name)

STUDENT I.D. NUMBER

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

CONCENTRATION

CURRENT TERM (Fall, Spring, Summer / Year)

EXPECTED GRADUATION TERM (Fall, Spring, Summer / Year)

1. TITLE AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DISSERTATION

2. NAME OF PROPOSED ADVISOR

Advisors for the DBA Dissertations (BA 597, 598, and 599) should be selected from the university DBA faculty available for the term (see catalog or website). If you wish to select another advisor who is not listed in the university DBA faculty, please provide his or her resume for the approval by the Lincoln University Chief Academic Officer. If you cannot select an advisor or the person selected by you is not available, please consult the Program Director or the Chief Academic Officer. Please get a printed synopsis of the Dissertation requirements from the Admissions and Records Office. If you decide to change your advisor or topic, you need to register again and get approval from the Chief Academic Officer.

3. STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

(Student's Signature and **Date**)

4. I AGREE TO ADVISE AND GRADE THE DISSERTATION.

(Advisor's Signature and **Date**)

5. ARE YOU CHANGING YOUR ADVISOR OR TOPIC? _____YES _____NO

If “NO”, please get your advisor’s signature (#4), and submit this form to the Program Director or the Chief Academic Officer.

If “YES”, please schedule an appointment for approval of change(s) to your selected advisor and/or title of the dissertation, fill in this form, get the necessary signatures (#4 and #5b), and then submit this form to the Program Director or the Chief Academic Officer.

a. WHO IS YOUR CURRENT ADVISOR AND WHY DO YOU INTEND TO SWITCH ADVISORS?

b. I AGREE TO RELEASE THE STUDENT TO ANOTHER ADVISOR.

(Signature and **Date**)

c. I DO NOT AGREE TO RELEASE THE STUDENT TO ANOTHER ADVISOR. (Please explain.)

(Signature and **Date**)

COMMENTS / REMARKS:

APPROVED BY THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR OR THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

(Signature and **Date**)

MEMORANDUM

To: All Students Enrolling in the DBA Research Project or Dissertation
From: Dr. Marshall J. Burak, Director of Graduate Programs
Subject: DBA Research Project or Dissertation Activity; Process and Notes

Be certain first that you have taken and passed the DBA Qualifying Examination before registering for BA 597.

Each DBA candidate is required to complete the program by writing a DBA research project or a dissertation. This results in a defense or a report presentation talk for a graduate committee. The project's topic must be related to the student's area of concentration and be approved by an advisor and the Program Director. Students should complete the dissertation, taking the following courses during at least 3 semesters. Grades for BA 597 – 599 are CR or NC only.

BA	510	DBA Dissertation Seminar	3
BA	597	DBA Dissertation I (advisor / topic selection, data collection)	3
BA	598	DBA Dissertation II (data analysis and interpretation)	3
BA	599	DBA Dissertation III (dissertation preparation and defense)	3

Total Required for the DBA Dissertation 12 Units

Dissertation Research Seminars and Library Fee

Students in the research project stage of matriculation for the DBA degree must maintain satisfactory status with the University and are required to enroll in the sequence of doctoral dissertation courses needed for the development and completion of the dissertation. Special fees are established to students entering this phase of the DBA program and will apply to all the dissertation sequence courses. Due to extended use of the library resources and required membership in the University of California library system, the DBA Dissertation Library Fee of \$100 (as of Fall 2013) per semester is imposed on the students during the research stage of the program.

Dissertation Style Standards

Unless an advisor indicates otherwise, students should conform to the APA style (www.apastyle.org) for citing references and formatting his or her dissertation. The style requirements for the DBA dissertation or research project are basically the same as those for the MBA research project (BA 399). The *MBA Thesis Manual* (pdf) is available for download from the LU website:

<http://www.lincolnuca.edu/studentlife/researchassist>

- A) After determining who your project advisor is, it is necessary to meet with him or her and arrange for a research topic suitable to your interests. **DO NOT DO THIS ALONE**; you must do this with your advisor, benefiting from his/her assistance and approval.

It is expected and you should, all during these “research” semesters, be in frequent contact with your advisor, meeting at least once every two weeks. E-mails and telephone discussions are useful, but your written progress should be seen by your advisor and such work discussed face-to-face, as you both examine written materials.

The research does not have to test hypotheses; it can be exploratory or normative research, or it can be descriptive. It must, however, follow the topical sequence set forth in part “C” below. And it should involve a comparison of some sort.

Any departure from this firm requirement must be approved by your advisor and by the Program Director, preferably early in the semester.

- B) You will next have to compose an Outline based on the sequence listed in part C below. Your advisor can assist you on this, as it will represent your full plan for completing the Research Project. At this point in your progress, a copy of this Outline must be given to the Program Director.
- C) Listed below is the sequence which all Research Projects must follow, regardless of field of study, and which will form the basis of your Outline, each one standing as a separate section or chapter of your research report (dissertation):
- I. Introduction
 - a. Statement of the Problem
 - b. Purpose of the Study
 - c. Delimitations (not “limitations”)
 - d. Definitions of Terms
 - II. Review of Literature (Studies, other related research, parts of journal or newspaper articles, parts of books, etc., which relate to your research topic)
 - III. Research Design, with supporting rationale (Any questionnaire form would be included here)
 - IV. Collection of the Data
 - V. Report of Findings (only). Comparisons shown here
 - VI. Analysis of Findings. Comparisons evaluated here only
 - VII. Conclusions (and Recommendations, if desired)
 - VIII. Bibliography (This would also include references of newspaper articles, dates of telephone or personal conversations with subjects and/or relevant experts, etc.)
 - IX. Appendix (Maps, charts, diagrams, reprinted copies of relevant articles from newspapers, books, etc.)

All students should know this sequence and its importance. Skipping or avoiding the sequence, or ignoring parts of it in the dissertation’s final form on the day of presentation will result in the presentation being only a “presentation” and not a defense of research. No grade will be given until the work is re-written according to the above sequence.

- D) Once a dissertation has been accepted by an advisor, the advisor will email it to LU Library. The library will then submit the paper to www.turnitin.com, which will process it and produce an “Originality Report”. Before giving final approval, the advising professor will review the Originality Report to confirm that the content is original or has been properly cited.
- E) Upon final approval, the advising professor is to arrange the presentation date with the Records Office. Inform the Records Office at least **two weeks** prior to the date you want to present your research. If much delay occurs, the effort can be continued on into a succeeding semester by registering then for one credit hour.
- F) When your presentation schedule is arranged, you will have to prepare a total of **seven copies** of your Research Project report (dissertation) of the final version; **five of them should be submitted to the Records Office as soon as possible**, and bring the other two copies on your presentation day.
- G) Upon passing the dissertation defense, you are responsible for providing LU Library with two hard copies and an **electronic copy** (via email, CD or flash drive) of your dissertation for archival purposes.

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DBA DISSERTATION PROGRESS FORM

STUDENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name)	STUDENT I.D. NUMBER
TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
CONCENTRATION	CURRENT TERM (Fall, Spring, Summer / Year)
AREA OF RESEARCH	ADVISOR

Students should get their advisor's initials with dates below at **each stage** of the project's progress, and submit it to the Admissions and Records Office.

1. DATA COLLECTION IS COMPLETED _____ DATE: _____ (BA 597)
2. CHAPTER I OF THE DISSERTATION IS COMPLETED _____ DATE: _____ (BA 597)
3. DRAFT FOR CHAPTER II _____ DATE: _____ (BA 598)
4. DRAFT FOR CHAPTER III _____ DATE: _____ (BA 598)
5. REVIEWED BY THE DOCTORAL COMMITTEE _____ DATE: _____ (BA 598)
6. DRAFT FOR CHAPTER IV _____ DATE: _____ (BA 599)
7. DRAFT FOR CHAPTER V _____ DATE: _____ (BA 599)
8. DISSERTATION IS COMPLETED, CONFIRMED BY THE ADVISOR
_____ DATE: _____ (BA 599)
9. PRESENTATION IS SCHEDULED _____ DATE: _____ (BA 599)
10. (IF APPLICABLE) THE STUDENT NEEDS TO RETAKE BA 599 IN THE NEXT TERM _____

ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE	STUDENT'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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RECEIVED BY THE ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS OFFICE

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|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ | 3. _____ | 4. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 7. _____ | 8. _____ | 9. _____ | 10. _____ |