Dissertation

A dissertation whose content is based on original research is required. The Ph.D. dissertation is a sophisticated, scholarly contribution to some area of education. An acceptable dissertation meets the following criteria to the satisfaction of the candidate’s Dissertation Reading Committee:

- Is an original study that reports on a thorough analysis of data around a researchable problem;
- Draws on established theoretical domains/foundations, while simultaneously moving the theoretical landscape forward;
- Sufficiently attends to methodologies and methods appropriate to the student’s research questions(s);
- Presents a meticulous analysis which offers a transparent path of inference and visibly supports all claims with appropriate evidence;
- Seeks to produce knowledge that is in some way generalizable to larger audiences and/or education contexts;
- Demonstrates expertise in the field education;
- Is coherently organized, well written and appropriately cited.

Dissertation Reading Committee

Students advanced to candidacy will normally have a Dissertation Reading Committee (DRC) composed of at least three members: two of those members will be from the Education department and the third will be an outside member (someone tenured and outside the department). It is understood that this outside member will not be required to regularly read proposal and dissertation drafts or meet with the student, but will be expected to participate in the Proposal Hearing and the Dissertation Defense and read occasional drafts of the student’s written work. Students, in consultation with their advisors, may prefer to move forward with an alternative DRC membership if they believe their circumstances would be better met with a different DRC membership composition.

Filing for the Ph.D. Degree

To be awarded the Ph.D. at the end of a particular quarter, the student must file by the beginning of the third week of that quarter her/his intentions to complete all degree requirements by the end of that quarter. The signed final copy of the dissertation must be submitted to the Graduate Division by the end of the ninth week of the quarter.

Due Dates to apply for degree:
Fall 2013: Oct 11 Winter 2014: Jan 17 Spring 2014: April 11

Due Dates to complete and turn in all degree requirements:
Fall 2013: Dec 12 Winter 2014: March 21 Spring 2014: May 29*
* Students not participating in June commencement have until June 12 to complete all requirements for degree

For more information on department and campus degree requirements, read the Education Ph.D. Student Handbook, and the Graduate Division Handbook. For more information about Dissertation Preparation and Guidelines: http://graddiv.ucsc.edu/student_affairs/forms.php#enrollment