DOCTORAL PROGRAM OF STUDY IN
INTERPROFESSIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

DISSERTATION CONCEPT PAPER PROTOCOL

The student must do a “three-paper” dissertation as outlined in the table below.

Three-Paper Dissertation

Ch 1. Introduction
Ch 2. Paper one
Ch 3. Paper two
Ch 4. Paper three
Ch 5. Integrative Discussion

The purpose of the dissertation concept paper is to lay out the basic concepts and methods for the dissertation research for review, discussion, and tentative approval by the student’s IHS and dissertation committees. The process (described below) for approving the dissertation concept paper is intended to be informal and interactive. Both qualitative and quantitative methods are valued in this program and can be used for dissertation research, pending approval of the student’s IHS and dissertation committees.

FORMAT
The dissertation concept paper should be between 5-10 pages in length (not counting references) and written in compliance with the discipline’s accepted stylistic guidelines (e.g., APA, AMA).

Statement of the Problem
The statement of the problem is a rational and reasoned argument that posits the problem and indicates the necessity for the research. This should be supported by a literature review of critical studies that provide sufficient information to identify the "gap" in the current research that will be addressed by the proposed study. This will set the stage for how your research will contribute to attempts to address the problem. This section also will incorporate definitions of key concepts.

Significance of the Research
Significance should be established by presenting an integrative review of key sources that establish the need for the study or studies. The far-reaching implications of the project findings should be addressed as well. This should include a brief review of the literature with relevant citations and may also include an outline of additional topics to be included in the review of the literature conducted while in the dissertation phase for the main study or collection of studies.

Articulation of Interprofessional Scholarship
The way(s) in which the proposed research is interprofessional should be described. In what ways does the proposed research integrate knowledge or expertise from two or more professions or disciplines to produce new scientific knowledge?

**Research Question(s)**
The research question(s) should be presented and show how the methods are designed to answer those questions. Bear in mind that any questions should be answerable within the timeline and framework of dissertation research. Consider the nature of the data that will be gathered and analytic techniques that will be used to answer the research question(s). One way to do this is by providing a table that will show the independent and dependent variables and analysis tools that will be used for each study.

**Method**
The method description should include data sources, instruments, procedures, and analysis methods for the proposed project. It will be important to gather the committee’s input and tentative approval of the methods which the student will tighten and elaborate for the formal proposal.

**Dissertation Concept Paper Approval Process**
The dissertation concept paper is developed to outline the plan for the dissertation. As noted above, the process for approving the dissertation concept paper is intended to be informal and interactive and is as follows:

1. The student first submits the dissertation concept paper to the IHS committee via email for approval. They will evaluate the proposal for its appropriateness with regard to scope, rigor, and feasibility. If the IHS committee has questions or concerns, these will be addressed with the student prior to progressing.

2. Once approval is obtained from the IHS committee, the student submits the same dissertation concept paper to the dissertation committee via email. The dissertation committee may collaborate via email or in a face-to-face meeting to discuss the submission. The outcome is a) approval of the dissertation concept paper or b) requests for modifications prior to approval. If requests for modification are required, either the student or the dissertation committee may request an optional face-to-face meeting (using distance technology as appropriate) to discuss the proposal.

Both the IHS and dissertation committees must approve the concept for the dissertation before the student is allowed to formally pursue their dissertation research (IHS 491).
Dissertation Concept Paper Approval Form:

WORKING TITLE:

STUDENT’S NAME:

IHS Committee

The IHS committee agrees the proposed project is appropriate in scope, rigor, and feasibility and may be pursued to fulfill the program requirement of dissertation. The full proposal still must be presented in a formal meeting with the student’s dissertation committee for approval. Only at that point can the student apply for Doctoral Candidate status.

Signatures:
IHS Committee Chair ____________________________ Date ________________

Dissertation Committee

The dissertation committee agrees with the concepts put forward in this paper and that the student is ready to prepare a dissertation proposal based on these concepts. The committee also agrees that the proposed study is appropriate in scope, rigor, and feasibility and may be pursued to fulfill the program requirement of dissertation. The committee recommends this student be allowed to register for dissertation credit. The full proposal still must be presented in a formal meeting with the dissertation committee for approval. Only at that point can the student apply for Doctoral Candidate status.

Signatures:
Dissertation Committee Chair ____________________________ Date ________________