

**Dewar College of Education  
Valdosta State University  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

**RSCH 9999  
Dissertation in Educational Leadership  
One to Three (1-3) Semester Hours**

**Required Textbooks**

APA Manual (latest edition)  
VSU Dissertations Guidelines  
Selected readings designated by the instructor and student.

**Required Technology**

This course will require you to have equipment and skills allowing ready and constant access to a computer with Internet connection to the WWW. You must utilize your VSU e-mail account on a regular basis, and have the resources and ability to attach and open documents readable in MS-Word and Adobe Acrobat. These individual requirements are not fulfilled by Valdosta State University but must be supplied by you at your home (preferable) or workplace.

**Course Description**

Development and defense of the dissertation prospectus and the dissertation. May be repeated.

**College of Education Conceptual Framework Standards (CFS)**

- I. **CONTENT AND CURRICULUM:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** demonstrate a strong content knowledge of content area(s) and other areas appropriate for their certification levels.
- II. **KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** support the intellectual, social, physical, and personal development of all students **(and others with whom they may work)**.
- III. **LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** create learning environments that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
- IV. **ASSESSMENT:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** understand and use a range of formal and informal assessment strategies to evaluate and ensure the continuous development of all learners **(and in some cases other affected parties)**.
- V. **PLANNING AND INSTRUCTION:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** design and create instructional experiences **(and in some cases experiences in the learning environment that may not be instructional)** based on their knowledge of content and curriculum, students, learning environments, and assessment.
- VI. **PROFESSIONALISM:** Teachers **(and in some cases other professional education personnel)** recognize, participate in, and contribute to teaching as a profession **(and in some cases professions other than teaching)**.

## **Course Objectives**

The student will:

1. Collect data following approved procedures. (VI)
2. Analyze research data. (VI)
3. Report research findings. (VI)
4. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills. (VI)

## **Course Activities / Assignments / Requirements**

A number of course activities are inherent in completion of the processes and products described in the Course Evaluation methods generally described below. These activities include: Research and Writing (Course objectives 1-4) and Revision by Expert & Self (Course objectives 1-4).

## **Course Evaluation**

### **1. Dissertation (70%)**

Written description of an applied research study. Criteria for evaluation: contains all pertinent elements (statement of problem, comprehensive literature review, procedures, data collection, analysis, and conclusions), APA format used, written in clear and grammatically-correct language, submitted on due date. All work for the dissertation is conducted independently by the student in the field. Guidance is provided through online and other communications with the Dissertation Committee Chairperson and Dissertation Committee.

### **2. Dissertation Defense (30%)**

Oral summary & critique of applied research study. Criteria for evaluation: includes pertinent content, effective showmanship and use of visuals, presented in clear and grammatically-correct language, presented on due date. See presentation evaluation sheet.

## **Grading Scale**

Quality is expected in all products and performances. Given the percentage totals above, final grades will be assigned accordingly.

S/U

## **Participation Policy**

Because students are being prepared to accept professional duties and responsibilities, attendance decisions are viewed as critical to developing professionalism.

## Policy Statement on Plagiarism and Cheating

### Dewar College of Education

#### POLICY STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

Below is information directly quoted from the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures:

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics.

The full text of Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures is available in the on the Academic Affairs website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>).

The consequences for acts of academic dishonesty in the Dewar College of Education are:

#### FIRST OFFENSE:

1. The faculty member will administer an academic response (e.g. resubmit / retake assignment, failure of the assignment, failure of the course).
2. The faculty member will complete a Level Two Dewar College of Education Concern form (<http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/studentsinfo.shtml>).
3. The faculty member will complete a Valdosta State University Report of Academic Dishonesty (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>).

#### SECOND OFFENSE:

1. The faculty member will administer an academic response (e.g. resubmit / retake assignment, failure of the assignment, failure of the course).
2. The faculty member will complete a Level Two Dewar College of Education Concern form (<http://www.valdosta.edu/coe/studentsinfo.shtml>). According to the Dewar College of Education Concern Form Policy, "a second level two concern form will result in the student being dismissed from his/her program of study. This dismissal will result in an automatic review by the COE Undergraduate Policies Committee."
3. The faculty member will complete a Valdosta State University Report of Academic Dishonesty (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyatVSU.shtml>). According to the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures document, "after a second (or subsequent) Report of Academic Dishonesty has been submitted to the Student Conduct Office in the Dean of Students Office, official charges will be drawn up and the disciplinary matter will be referred to the Valdosta State University Judicial Committee."

## **Special Needs Statement**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (voice) and 229-219-1348 (tty).

### **Instructor**

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