



Doctorate in Ethical Leadership Benchmarks

Semester	Benchmarks
Summer Y1	<p>Chapter 1: Problem Statement</p> <p><i>The problem statement defines the issue that exists in the literature, theory, or practice that leads to a need for the study.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 1: Background of the Problem</p> <p><i>The background section contains a summary of the most relevant literature to provide the historical, social and theoretical contexts for the research problem.</i></p>
Fall Y1	<p>Chapter 1: Purpose</p> <p><i>The purpose statement clearly and succinctly states the rationale for the study and must include two elements: the gaps in the literature that the study seeks to fill, and the social justice issue(s) that the study will address.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 1: Nature of the Study</p> <p><i>This section provides a brief overview of the setting in which the research will take place and the research design selected to study the research topic.</i></p>
Fall and Spring Y1	<p>Chapter 2: Literature Review</p> <p><i>The literature review is the argument for the significance of the study. It communicates what has been examined on the topic, what has not been examined or how understanding on the topic is still developing, and how this study can specifically address gaps in the existing literature. It also grounds the proposed study in the relevant work that has been done in the field, to give a clear sense of the theoretical approach to the phenomena for the proposed study.</i></p>
Spring Y1	<p>Chapter 1: Development of Research Questions</p> <p><i>The proposed research question(s) should be derived from the problem and purpose statements.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 2: Conceptual Framework</p> <p><i>The conceptual framework should provide the reader with a direct connection to the concepts and theories that will effectively guide the study.</i></p>
	<p>Chapter 1: Problem Statement</p> <p><i>The problem statement defines the issue that exists in the literature, theory, or practice</i></p>

Summer Y2	<i>that leads to a need for the study.</i>
	Chapter 1: Nature of the Study
	<i>This section provides a brief overview of the setting in which the research will take place and the research design selected to study the research topic.</i>
	Chapter 1: Significance
	<i>The significance of the study includes a brief description of how/why the study is important.</i>
Fall Y2	Chapter 1: Research Questions
	<i>The proposed research question(s) should be derived from the problem and purpose statements.</i>
	Chapter 1: Definitions
	<i>Terms pertinent to the study should be clearly defined and supported by the literature.</i>
	Chapter 3: Research Design
Fall Y2	Effectiveness of and Rationale for Research Design
	<i>The rationale for why the design is most appropriate for the study addresses what is the purpose of the design, when is it used, and why is it the most appropriate choice for the present study.</i>
	Sample
	<i>The sample is the group of research participants. The population from which the sample is drawn, the sample size, the type of sample, the sampling procedures (e.g. convenience sampling, etc.), and the sample characteristics should be explained.</i>
Fall Y2	Description of Setting
	<i>The setting is the location where the research takes place.</i>
	Instrumentation
Fall Y2	<i>The instrument(s) used to measure each variable should to be identified. The instruments may be tests, surveys, questionnaires, observational protocols, or other measurements.</i>
	Data Collection Procedures
Fall Y2	<i>The procedural details necessary to replicate the study are provided.</i>

Spring Y2	<p align="center">Chapter 3: Research Design - Method(s) of Data Analysis</p> <p><i>The type of data analysis is identified and a concise rationale for the type of analysis is provided.</i></p> <p align="center">Limitations</p> <p><i>This involves a discussion of the study limitations in context of the threats to internal or external validity, as well as steps taken to limit the threat and how the limitation influenced the study.</i></p>
	<p align="center">Proposal Defense</p> <p><i>A 30 minute presentation that highlights the key points of the proposal is followed by questions from the committee.</i></p>
	<p align="center">University and Setting Permissions Sought</p> <p><i>Permission to conduct the study is sought from the University's Human Subjects Committee as well as the representative or office that oversees research for the setting in which the dissertation research will take place.</i></p>
	<p align="center">University and Setting Permissions Obtained</p> <p><i>Human Subjects Committee and setting approve study.</i></p>
Summer Y3	<p align="center">Data Collection</p> <p><i>Data are collected in accordance with the research procedures described in the Method.</i></p>
	<p align="center">Chapter 4: Results</p> <p><i>Data are analyzed and findings are presented accurately and appropriately.</i></p>
Fall Y3	<p align="center">Chapter 5: Discussion</p> <p><i>Findings are interpreted, contextualized, and discussed in terms of their implications for practice and research.</i></p>
Spring Y3	<p align="center">Dissertation Defense</p> <p><i>The defense is a presentation of a student's research findings and conclusions to the dissertation committee for review, comment, and eventual approval. It is also an opportunity for the greater University community to learn about the significance of the research findings.</i></p>