

## **Dissertation in Professional Practice Research Proposal Guideline**

The research proposal is the student's first formal proposal to the guidance committee regarding the dissertation topic. As such, the research proposal should have a title page and be written with proper format. This document is **limited** to ten pages in length, not including the title page and bibliography.

### **1. Components of the Research Proposal**

The research proposal should include the following components:

- a) Problem of Professional Practice and Context
- b) Research question  
What research question will be answered because of this dissertation?
- c) Thesis statement (research problem, purpose statement)  
Set forth the goal of the research. This is the conceptual core of the dissertation. This is not the place to discuss methodology.
- d) Literature search  
The purpose of the search is to demonstrate the need for the dissertation research.
- e) Importance of the study  
Include a description of the importance of the proposal. What will this research contribute to the academic discipline?
- f) Methodology  
Give a brief description of the methodology to be employed. Discuss the data needed and how they will be interpreted. Identify key issues that are relevant to the research methodology.
- g) Initial bibliography  
The initial bibliography should include key works that have been examined and indicate awareness of major works in the field of inquiry.

### **2. Approval of Research Proposal**

The student should submit his/her research proposal to the Faculty Supervisor when ready to proceed. The guidance committee will review and approve the research proposal. A DiPP Proposal Evaluation Guide is available on the Doctor of Education website ([www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)). Students are advised to evaluate their work carefully in all of these areas prior to submission of the research proposal to the guidance committee.