



### Year 1:

#### Steps 1 & 2: Enrollment & Transition course

- Goal statement requires response concerning interest area for the dissertation
- Orientation to Learning Platform
- Library Tutorial on research databases and scholarly resources

#### Step 3: RES 811

- Doctoral dispositions and expectations for successful completion of doctoral program are presented
- Identifies broad area of research interest for dissertation
- Begins to develop researchable ideas
- Begins collecting materials for literature review
- Begins to identify, summarize and critically analyze empirical studies
- Creates compare and contrast matrix to identify gaps in literature
- Reviews basic dissertation processes
- APA introduced/reinforced

#### Step 4: RES 850

- Introduced to research ethics & IRB
- Introduced to purpose and structure of the **Literature Review**
- Begins to identify, analyze and synthesize empirical research literature relevant to research interest area
- Identifies needs, gap or tension in the literature related to research interest area
- Identifies potential **topic area for dissertation**
- Applies qualitative and quantitative methodologies to potential topic area.
- Becomes familiar with **10 Strategic Points & Prospectus**

#### Step 5: RSD 851

- Begins to develop preliminary working draft of the **10 Strategic Points** and/or **Research Prospectus** based on literature review
- Refines **topic of dissertation**
- Based on preliminary literature review defines the problem, purpose and significance of the proposed study
- Expresses problem in operational terms and articulates a research question

- Considers research methodology/design and data analysis approach

### Year 2:

#### Step 6: RES 861

- Organize and synthesizes the literature relevant to topic of interest
- Identifies theory in the literature to support potential problem, purpose statements and research questions
- Develops **Literature Review outline** and 1st draft review of literature review
- Articulates themes in literature review and gap in the literature
- Continues to revise and refine draft of **10 Strategic Points** to reflect updates to literature review

#### Step 7: RES 866

- Differentiate the GCU Core Research Designs.
- Introduction to quantitative statistics
- Distinguish descriptive from inferential statistics
- Introduced to probability and hypothesis testing
- Analyze the use of t-tests, ANOVAs, correlation and regression analyses
- Use SPSS to analyze quantitative data
- Chooses and justifies a research methodology and design for proposed research based on GCU Core Research Designs
- Methodology and design are added to **10 Strategic Points** document

#### Step 8: RSD 881

- Develops and/or refines **Research Prospectus**
- Develops theoretical foundation/framework for proposed study based on method
- Aligns research problem, purpose, questions, variables, instrumentation, research methodology, design, data analysis in **10 Strategic Points** document and **Prospectus** based on updates to draft literature review
- Refines research design

### Year 3:

#### Step 9: RES 880

- **Literature Review** draft further developed and expanded

- Articulate themes in literature review and gap in literature
- Chooses and justifies a research methodology and design for proposed research
- Chooses and justifies potential data collection and analysis approaches
- Polished draft of **Research Prospectus** submitted as Benchmark Assignment

#### Step 10: RES 885

- Dissertation Committee Chair and Methodologist appointed
- Content expert committee member selected and approved
- **Research Prospectus** approved by methodologist and Chair
- **Literature Review** (Chapter 2) draft further developed, revised and expanded
- First draft of the **Dissertation Proposal** (Chapters 1-3) as negotiated with Chair
- For greater detail, please review the Dissertation Milestone Guide on the DC Network

#### Steps 11-13: DIS 955, DIS 960, DIS 965

- **Dissertation Proposal** approved by committee and AQR
- IRB submission and approval
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- **Chapter 4 draft** including tables, charts and graphs
- **Chapter 5 draft**
- Chapters 4-5 approved by Chair
- Revision of Chapters 1-3 as necessary and integration of Chapters 1-5 into a full **Dissertation Manuscript**
- Approval by Committee and AQR for final defense
- For greater detail, please review the Dissertation Milestone Guide on the DC Network

#### Step 14: DIS 965 – DIS 975

- Graduation **OR** Continuation Courses PSY 966-PSY 975 if additional time is needed for data collection, revisions of dissertation, dissertation defense, AQR or Dean's approval.
- Publication of articles and conference presentations