

## Checklist for EdD Dissertation Using Quantitative Research

*This checklist is intended to serve as a tool for writing the EdD Dissertation. The EdD student should defer to his or her EdD Dissertation Committee for further assistance.*

### ABSTRACT

- Describe the research problem and its significance.
- State the purpose of the study.
- Include theoretical and/or conceptual framework.
- Describe research design, data collection, and data analysis concisely.
- Identify the key findings.
- Describe the conclusions and implications for practice.

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Problem

- Summarize past empirical literature related to the dissertation topic.
- Describe the gap in practice that the study will address.
- Describe the rationale for the study.

#### Statement of the Problem

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- Describe the general topic and the specific problem.
- List possible negative consequences of this problem.
- Provide evidence of the problem (e.g. what is known), including what evidence is missing (i.e., what is not known or gap in literature).
- Describe what the researcher wants to know.
- Describe significance of the study to the field of education and who will benefit.

#### Purpose of the Study

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- State the overall intent of the study (e.g., examine).
- Identify the quantitative research design.
- Describe the quantitative data collection (e.g., participants, setting, measures, constructs, variables).

#### Research Questions (and Hypotheses)

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- State as open-ended questions (i.e., without yes/no answers)
  - Specific*: Does it include specific variables or constructs?
  - Measurable*: Can it be evaluated (i.e., methods)?
  - Aligned*: Does it align with the problem and purpose?
  - Realistic*: Do I have the resources to answer it (i.e., feasible)?
  - Timely*: Is it relevant to current issues in research?
- State the null and alternative hypotheses using present tense.

- Identify independent and dependent variables.
- Identify statistically significant difference or relationship being examined.
- Identify how the constructs and/or variables will be measured.

#### Theoretical Framework

- Identify the theory and provide the original source.
- State and explain the components of the theory.
- Explain how the theory relates to your problem and research question using past empirical literature.

#### AND/OR

#### Conceptual Framework

- Identify and define the concepts.
- Describe the conceptual framework using empirical literature.
- State the relationship between each component within the conceptual framework.
- Explain how the conceptual framework relates to your problem and research question using empirical literature.

#### Methodology Overview

- State the research design.
- Provide rationale for the chosen research design.
- Describe the quantitative constructs/variables.
- Summarize the participants, instrumentation, data collection, and data analysis.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.

#### Delimitations and Limitations

- Describe any delimitations of the current study related to selecting the topic/problem, theoretical framework, targeted population, research questions, and methodology, which limit the scope and define the boundaries of the field and are in the control of the researcher.
- Describe any limitations or potential weaknesses of the current study related to research design, internal validity, and external validity, which are beyond the control of the researcher.
- Describe reasonable actions to address these limitations.

#### Definition of Terms

- Provide a concise definition of key terms, abbreviations, variables, and constructs as used in this study.
- Each definition should have at least one citation from empirical literature.
- Presented in alphabetical order.

### Significance of the Study

- Identify potential contributions to knowledge within the field of education.
- Identify potential contributions to practice and/or policy within the field of education.

### Summary

- Summarize the main points of Chapter I.

## CHAPTER II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Introduction

- Restate the problem and purpose of the study.
- Outline major sections within Chapter II.
- Describe key terms and databases used in developing the literature review, if appropriate. ([See example.](#))

### Theoretical Framework

- Identify the theory and provide the original source.
- State the components of the theory.
- Synthesize empirical literature involving theory and how it relates to the current study.
- Provide a rationale for selecting this theory.
- Explain how the theory relates to your problem and research question using empirical literature.

### AND/OR

### Conceptual Framework

- Identify and define the concepts.
- Synthesize literature by key theorists, philosophers, and/or researchers related to each defined concept.
- Describe the conceptual framework using empirical literature.
- State the relationship between each component within the conceptual framework.
- Explain how the conceptual framework relates to your problem and research question using empirical literature.

### Literature Review

- Provide a historical and/or legislative background, if appropriate.
- Synthesize empirical literature related to the problem, research questions, constructs, independent variables, and dependent variables, including mixed findings from researchers. ([See example.](#))
- Provide a minimum of 50 references with at least 40 from current (past 5 years) peer-reviewed journal articles from various databases. ([See database research logsheet.](#))

- For each study, describe the following items. ([See dissecting articles spreadsheet.](#))
  - Purpose of the study
  - Research design
  - Participants
  - Measures
  - Data collection
  - Data analysis
  - Findings
  - Implications
  - Limitations
  - Future research
- Integrate the empirical literature to highlight the similarities, differences, what remains to be studied, and how the current study will advance the body of knowledge.
- Provide a concept analysis chart to highlight the major studies found in the literature. ([See example.](#))

#### Summary

- Summarize the major themes from Chapter II concisely.
- Summarize what is known about the problem and what is not known about the problem.
- Identify at least one gap in the literature and explain how the current study will fill the gap.

### CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

#### Introduction

- Restate the problem and purpose of the study.
- Outline major sections within Chapter III.

#### Research Design

- Restate the research questions and hypotheses from Chapter I.
- Restate the quantitative research design from Chapter I.
- Explain the selected research design and its advantages over other research designs.
- Identify independent and dependent variables.
- Provide a visual model to illustrate the research design, if applicable.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.

#### Role of the Researcher

- Define and explain your role in the current study (e.g., observer, participant, or both).
- Describe any personal or professional relationships the researcher may have with the potential participants (e.g., supervisory, evaluation, and/or instructor of record).

#### Participants

- Identify the population.
- Explain why the population was selected.

- Identify the setting.
- Identify and justify the sampling technique (e.g., random or convenient).
- State the inclusion criteria for the current study.
- State the exclusion criteria for the current study, if applicable.
- State the approximate number of participants.
- Include a power analysis.
- Describe procedures for identifying, contacting, and recruiting potential participants.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.

#### Instrumentation

- Identify each data collection measure, including the original developer(s) and year of publication.
- Describe the literature sources utilized in the development.
- Describe the original pilot study (e.g., participants, setting, data collection, data analysis).
- Describe how reliability (i.e., internal consistency and test/retest) was established.
- Describe how validity (i.e., face, content, predictive, convergent, and/or discriminant) was established.
- Describe how permission was obtained from the original developers to utilize the measure. (Evidence must be included as an appendix.)
- If the measure was developed for the current study, describe the pilot study (e.g., participants, setting, data collection, data analysis, reliability, and validity). CSU IRB approval letter to conduct the pilot must be included as an appendix.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.
- Provide an item analysis chart, including each item/prompt with associated empirical literature and research question, if appropriate. ([See examples.](#))
- Include all measures (e.g., surveys and pre/posttests) as appendices.

#### Intervention (if applicable)

- Identify materials and/or programs implemented with the treatment group.
- Describe the development of the materials and/or program (e.g., where, how, and whom).
- Describe the intervention procedures for implementation, including reach, duration, and fidelity.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.

#### Data Collection

- Describe sequential and detailed procedures for recruitment and any follow-up recruitment, including any incentives/compensations for participation.
- Describe sequential and detailed procedures for obtaining informed consent. CSU IRB approval letter to conduct the study must be included as an appendix.
- Describe sequential and detailed procedures for administering the measures (e.g., where, when, duration, how data will be audio/video recorded, anonymity/confidentiality, transcription, and how data will be stored/destroyed).
- Describe sequential and detailed procedures for debriefing, if applicable.
- Describe sequential and detailed procedures for any follow-up procedures (e.g., posttest or completion of multiple measures).

- If using pre-existing data, describe sequential and detailed procedures for requesting, gaining access, and obtaining the electronic or hard copy data. (Evidence must be included as an appendix.)
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.
- If the original IRB protocol was modified, describe sequential and detailed procedures. CSU IRB approval letter to modify the original protocol must be included as an appendix.

#### Data Analysis

- Identify software used for data analyses.
  - [SPSS Standard GradPack 25](#) or SPSS is available in all CSU computer labs
- Restate each research question, state the data analysis technique to answer it (e.g., statistical test) and how the results will be interpreted (e.g., alpha level).
- Explain any data cleaning, data transformation, data imputation and/or dummy coding processes. Describe how the model assumptions will be tested. Describe how validity and reliability will be determined for each measure.
- Provide citations to support descriptions, explanations, and justifications.

#### Summary

- Summary of the main points in Chapter III.

### CHAPTER IV RESULTS

#### Introduction

- Restate the problem and purpose of the study.
- Outline major sections within Chapter IV.

#### Participants

- Describe the demographics and characteristics of the participants.
- State the number of actual participants and response rate.
- Discuss any participant attrition.
- Include duration of recruitment and data collection.

#### Findings

- For each research question,
  - restate the quantitative data analysis technique used to answer it.
  - Report the results from testing assumptions.
  - Report descriptive statistics to summarize the data.
  - Report and explain descriptive and inferential statistics based on the data analysis technique and statistical model.
  - Interpret the findings and either *fail to reject* or *reject* each null hypothesis.
  - Include tables and/or figures to display the results from data analysis. ([See examples.](#))

#### Summary

- Summarize the answers for each research question.

## CHAPTER V DISCUSSION

### Summary of the Study

- Restate the problem, methodology, and gap in literature that the current study attempted to fill.
- Summarize the key findings from Chapter IV.

### Analysis of the Findings

- Describe in what ways findings confirm, disconfirm, or extend knowledge in the field of education by comparing them to the empirical literature in Chapter II (e.g., connecting the findings to previous research findings).
- Analyze and interpret the findings in the context of the theoretical and/or conceptual framework.

### Limitations of the Study

- Describe limitations to generalizability that arose from conducting the study (e.g., sampling, data collection, or data analysis).

### Recommendations for Future Research

- Describe recommendations for future research based on the findings and limitations of the current study and empirical literature from Chapter II.

### Implications of the Study

- Describe implications for the field of education.
- Describe implications for educational practice and/or policy.

### Dissemination of the Findings (if applicable)

- Identify two or more groups who would be interested in the results of the current study (e.g., district administration, school personnel, and/or community stakeholders).
- Outline a brief plan for disseminating the findings (e.g., when, where, and how).

### Conclusion

- Provide a “take away” based on the findings of the current study.