

Delta State University

College of Education

Annual Student Update Part II Dissertation

Contact Information

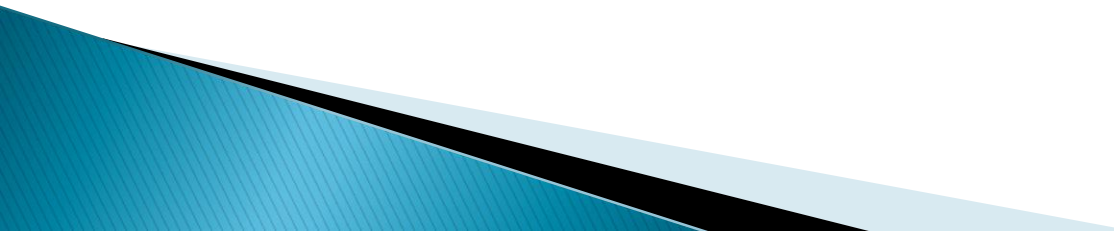
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▶ Always Remember

There is NO “i” in Doctoral!

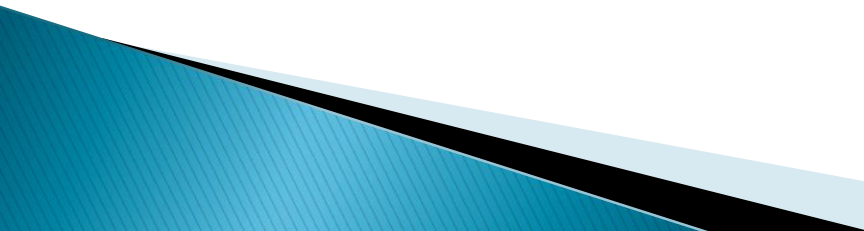
Comprehensive Examination

- ▶ Dissertation Seminar is to be taken in the last semester of coursework (excluding ELR 890). Passage of comprehensive examination is a prerequisite for ELR 888
 - ▶ Comprehensive Exam covers all coursework, is essay style, is completed in a computer lab on campus
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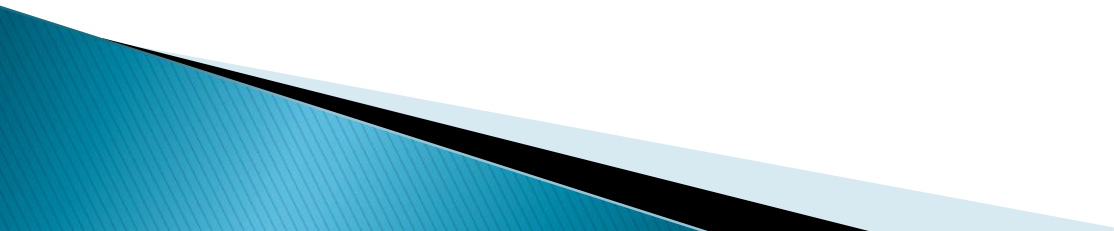
Dissertation Seminar

- ▶ ELR 888
 - ▶ Last semester
 - ▶ Rough draft of Chapters 1–3
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Requesting a Dissertation Chair

1. Student requests chair (usually done in Dissertation Seminar)
 2. Doctoral Coordinator and Track Coordinator work together to appoint a chair after consultation with division chair
 3. Student and chair recommend the committee members
 4. Recommendations approved by doctoral coordinator, track advisor, and division chair
 5. Suggested committee approved by student and chair
 6. Student asked the members to serve (only with proper documentation that these steps have been followed)
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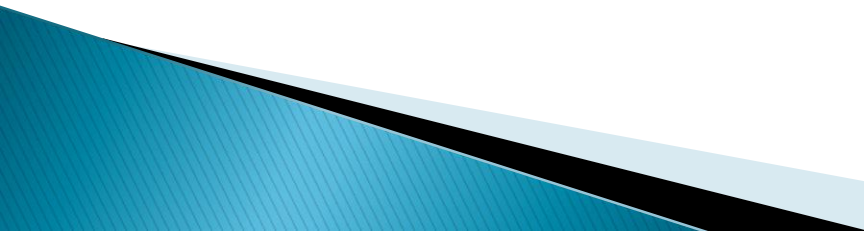
Dissertation Proposal

- ▶ Usually about 1 or 2 semesters before Defense
 - ▶ Student formally presents Chapters 1–3 to committee for approval
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Dissertation Defense

- ▶ Public formal presentation of Chapters 1–5.
- ▶ MAY get signatures of committee after this meeting....often additional revisions are required before signatures

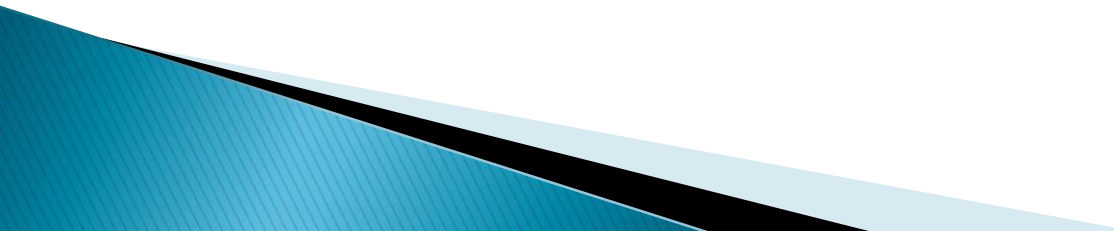
Dissertation Hour Requirements

- ▶ Must finish within 5 years from last ELR 888 completion (excluding dissertation hours)
 - ▶ Minimum of 12 hours of ELR 890 (often requires more)
 - ▶ Continuous enrollment in ELR 890 required (2 of 4 semesters a year....spring, summer, fall)
 - ▶ Turn in at least 1 new draft each semester signed up for ELR 890
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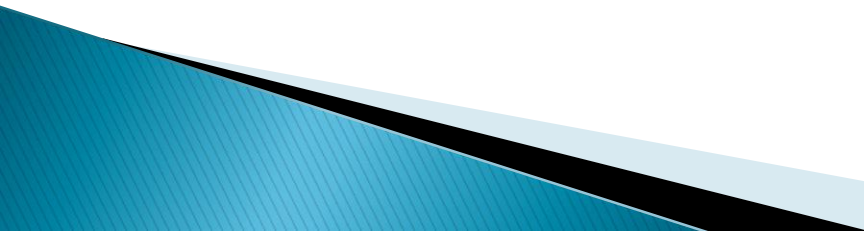
Library Resources and Links

- ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/dissertation.pdf>
 - ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/1268.asp>
 - ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/offcampus.pdf>
 - ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/eric2.pdf>
 - ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/docs/library/education.pdf>
 - ▶ <http://www.deltastate.edu/pages/869.asp>
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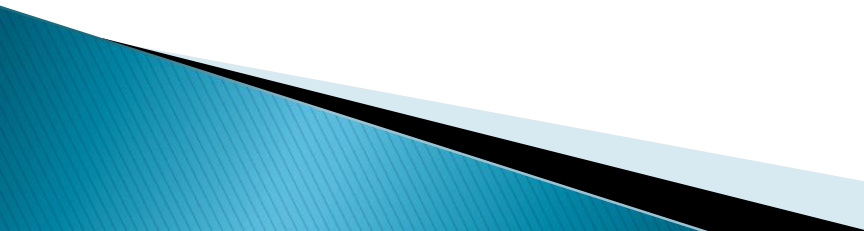
Making Time to Write

- ▶ Make it a priority; everyone has busy lives
 - ▶ Block out 4 or 5 hours a week
 - ▶ Take 2 or 3 FULL weekends; go away
 - ▶ Library has a special room with lockers just for ABD students and faculty
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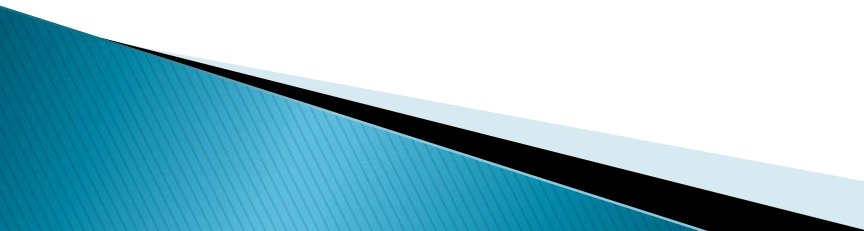
Organization

- ▶ Folders
 - ▶ Keep “Old Dissertation Version” folder so only one active copy at a time
 - ▶ Rename each draft with the date in the title
 - ▶ Keep a special physical place for materials
 - ▶ Keep backups!
 - ▶ Submit drafts in a big notebook with new draft on top and last draft with chair feedback under it (maybe with dividers by chapter)
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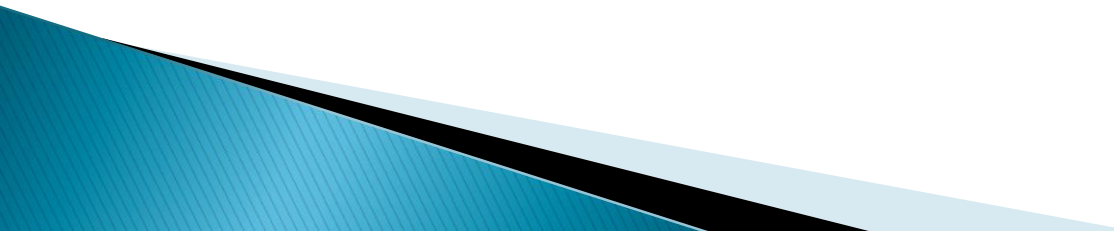
Working with Your Chair

- ▶ Don't send anything to committee members without chair approval
 - ▶ Be realistic
 - ▶ Will take 2–3 weeks for feedback
 - ▶ Don't expect that at the end or beginning of semesters
 - ▶ Remember most faculty take holidays and summers off
 - ▶ Friendly weekly email reminders after that may help
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Working with Your Chair Continued

- ▶ Submit drafts as close to perfect as you can make them
 - ▶ Check off each comment in the feedback you were given to be sure you made the correction
 - ▶ Don't take criticism personally; it is the chair's job
 - ▶ You are now colleagues; don't expect "hand holding"
 - ▶ As a last resort, copy requests for feedback to me (not blind; want the chair to see this)
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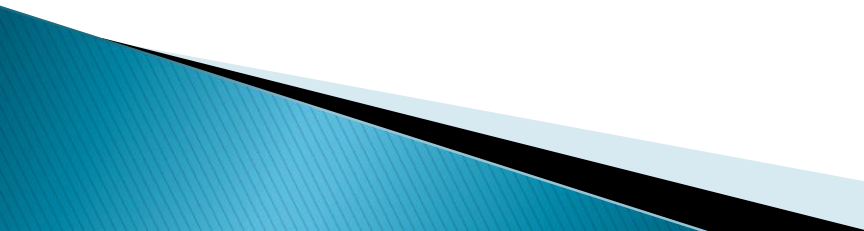
Let's Get Real: Timing

- ▶ Each draft submitted to chair will take 2–3 weeks to get back
 - ▶ Usually take 3–5 drafts before ready to go to the committee
 - ▶ Takes 2 years IF you are working hard and everything goes well with data collection and analysis
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Calendar Example

- ▶ Say you wanted to graduate in December 2010
 - Graduation is December 10
 - Nov. 8 Final Defense
 - Oct. 18 approved draft to committee (3 weeks before defense)
 - Oct. 4 final draft to chair (chapters 1–5)
 - Aug. 30 draft 3 to chair
 - July 26 draft 2 to chair
 - June 21 draft 1 to chair

Calendar Example Continued

- ▶ April 20 – June 18 Data Collection, Analysis, Chapters 4 & 5 (and revisions of chapters 1, 2, & 3)
 - ▶ April 19 Formal Proposal Meeting
 - ▶ March 29 approved draft to committee (3 weeks before proposal)
 - ▶ March 15 final draft to chair (chapters 1–3)
 - ▶ Feb. 8 draft 3 to chair
 - ▶ Dec. 28 draft 2 to chair
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DON'T FREAK OUT!!!!

- ▶ Remember all those other people out there with Dr. in front of their names?
 - ▶ If they can do it, so can YOU!
 - ▶ If it were easy, everyone would be a doctor!
 - ▶ We really do want you to succeed!!!!
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