

Course Syllabus: Dissertation College of Education EDLE 6203 Section X20/DX1 Spring 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Kym Acuña

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Office hours: Tuesday 2:00-4:00pm, Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm, Thursday 2:00-

4:00pm, and By appointment

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Instructor Response Policy

The best way to contact me is through email. I usually respond quickly. You can expect a response within 24 hours, however, it could be a little longer on weekends or holidays.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

N/A

Course Description

To be scheduled only with consent of department. Nine hours credit required. No credit assigned until dissertation has been completed and filed with the graduate school. Doctoral students must maintain continuous enrollment in this course subsequent to passing qualifying examination for admission to candidacy.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

- 1. Design and conduct an original research project in order to answer your research question(s).
- 2. Design a discipline specific research methodology.
- 3. Apply social science/scientific writing skills (APA)
- 4. Analyze research and other topics with academics in your field

Student Handbook

Refer to: Student Handbook-2023-24

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Office of Student Conduct

Grading/Assessment

Click here to enter text.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Formative Evaluation	88

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
Α	79
В	70
С	62
D	53
F	Less than 53

Projects Required

Adequate progress toward dissertation completion and evaluation should occur.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 19, 2024. Deadline to file for graduation: February 12, 2024. Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 24, 2024.

Refer to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you

experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the <u>Schedule of Classes</u> each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide

appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <u>Disability Support Services</u>.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit Campus Carry.

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit Safety/Emergency Procedures. Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." Which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "Run. Hide. Fight."

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University MSU Catalog

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Students shall continue to develop all four chapters of the Dissertation in Practice throughout the term.

Each candidate will be at a different place in their dissertation development and writing. Consult with dissertation chair to establish semester goals for dissertation completion.

Appendix A Dissertation Project Defense Evaluation Rubric

Overview:

While leadership is about influence and getting results, it also requires continuous growth in the process of leading. The self-actualized leader reflects on personal mastery and excellence. As the culminating experience that demonstrates the scholarly practitioner's ability to solve problems of practice, the Dissertation in Practice (DIP) showcases the doctoral candidate's ability "to think, to perform, and to act with integrity" (Shulman, 2005). The Leading with **Influence** evidence places the candidate in a leadership role to implement a series of short-term "next-step" interventions which have been identified previously during the strategic planning process as well as to evaluate each one's overall effectiveness and potential for expansion. Along with other pertinent discussions, the candidate will also present a final strategic communication plan at the conclusion of the DIP which is designed to provide a compelling argument for continuing with certain interventions based on short-term data analyses and findings. The "strategic communication plan" (developed by the candidate in EDLE 6203) should present information suitable for sharing the results of the DIP with key stakeholders (principals, parents, faculty/staff, school board, community leaders, county commissioners, etc.). The written communication plan should be in the form of an Executive Summary.

Directions to the Candidate and Requirements:

The Dissertation in Practice (DIP) is a formal demonstration of the doctoral candidate's knowledge, skills and behaviors, scholarship, and dispositions of educational leadership. It is an intended to serve as a demonstration that the doctoral candidate is capable and prepared to provide extraordinary leadership. The DIP is a strategic plan to solve a problem of practice with the preliminary steps "next steps" of implementation and evaluation of potential solutions. It involves working with a -level leader (superintendent or designee) on a problem, or opportunity, that is of mutual concern to them. The DIP serves to provide major evidence of leadership performance, leadership capacity, and leadership thinking.

The candidate should be aware that the DIP must be a practical application of the candidate's: (1) strategic planning skills; (2) use of data to impact teaching and learning; (3) ability to build and use relationships toward the same end; and (4) and ability to apply theory to practice. These four cornerstones emanate from the framework of four key strands of Midwestern State University's Ed.D. Program in Educational Leadership: Strategic Leadership; Data and Learning; Building Collaborative Relationships; and Theory, Application and Practice. The assessment of the DIP is guided by the rubric below which evaluates the candidate's proficiency in knowledge, skills in oral and written communication, leadership, and dispositions as they are applied to the evidence or product produced by the candidate.

Evaluation:

The Dissertation in Practice Rubric will be utilized by the candidate's DiP chair to evaluate the candidate's DiP during the final semester of dissertation work (EDLE 6203). It will also be used as a formative assessment of progress in the dissertation classes prior to the last semester.

Inclement Weather

In the case of campus closure due to inclement weather, it should not impact this course as there are no specific due dates and each candidate is individually working on their dissertation. However, if there are any concerns regarding this course related to inclement weather, please contact me.

Evaluation Rubric Dissertation in Practice	Advanced	Acceptable	Needs Improvemen t	Unacceptable
Standard 1: Mission, Vision, and Improvement				
Component 1.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and communicate a school mission and vision designed to reflect a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and communicate a school mission and vision designed to reflect a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, develop, and communicate a school mission and vision designed to reflect values OR priorities that may include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, OR community BUT not all of them	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to develop, and communicate a school mission OR vision BUT does not necessarily reflect a core set of values OR priorities	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and communicate a school mission and vision designed to reflect a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community
Component 1.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to lead improvement processes that include data use, design, implementation, and evaluation.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to lead improvement processes that include data use, design, implementation, and evaluation	Candidate demonstrates the capacity for improvement processes that include data use, design and implementati on BUT does not provide a mechanism for evaluation	Candidate demonstrates the capacity for improvement processes that include data use OR design, BUT does not include a plan for implementatio	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to lead improvement processes that include data use, design, implementation, and evaluation

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Standard 2: Ethics				
and Professional				
Norms Component 2.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to cultivate, OR model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that BUT does not connect those to the educational success and of each student and adult.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.
Component 2.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to communicate ethical and legal decisions	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions
Component 2.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to model ethical behavior in	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to model ethical behavior in	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to model ethical behavior in

their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.	conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.	conduct and relationships and references ethical behavior in others.	their personal conduct and relationships.	their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.
Standard 3: Equity, Inclusiveness, and Cultural Responsiveness				
Component 3.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to use data to evaluate, design, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to use data to evaluate, design, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to use data to evaluate and design a supportive and inclusive school culture	Candidate demonstrates the use of data to design and advocate school culture	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to use data to evaluate, design, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture
Component 3.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success and well-being of each student.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to advocate for access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success
Component 3.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate,	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for	Candidate cultivates and advocates for equitable, inclusive, and culturally	Candidate cultivates culturally responsive instruction and behavior	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and

and advocate for equitable, inclusive, and culturally	equitable, inclusive, and culturally	responsive instruction and behavior	support practices among	advocate for equitable, inclusive, and
responsive	responsive	support	teachers and	culturally
instruction and	instruction and	practices	staff.	responsive
behavior support	behavior	among		instruction and
practices among	support	teachers and		behavior
teachers and staff.	practices	staff.		support
	among			practices
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Standard 4: Learning and				
Instruction				
Component 4.1 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality, technology-rich curricula programs and other supports for academic and non-academic student programs	Candidates demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality, technology-rich curricula programs and other supports for academic and non- academic student programs	Candidates develops and implement high-quality curricula programs and other supports for academic and non- academic student programs	Candidates implements curricula programs for academic programs	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality, technology-rich curricula programs and other supports for academic and non-academic student programs
Component 4.2 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality and equitable academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, and services that support equity, digital literacy, and the school's academic and non- academic systems.	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality and equitable academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, and services that support equity, digital literacy, and the school's academic and non-academic systems.	Candidate develops and implement academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, OR services that support equity, digital literacy, OR the school's academic and non-academic systems.	Candidate implements academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, OR services that support equity, digital literacy, OR the school's academic systems.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality and equitable academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, and services that support equity, digital literacy, and the school's academic and non-academic systems.
Component 4.3 Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to evaluate, develop, and	Candidate develops and implement formal and informal	Candidate implements formal culturally responsive	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and

evaluate, develop, and implement formal and informal culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support data-informed instructional improvement and student learning and well-being.	implement formal and informal culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support data-informed instructional improvement and student learning and well-being.	culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support instructional improvement and student learning.	and accessible assessments that support instructional improvement and student learning.	implement formal and informal culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support data-informed instructional improvement and student learning and well-being.
Component 4.4 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner	Candidate develops and implements the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner	Candidate implements the school's curriculum, instruction, technology in a systematic manner	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner

Standard 5:				
Community and				
External Leadership				
Component 5.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.	Candidate demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.	Candidate engages diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.	Candidate engages families in strengthening student learning in school.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.
Component 5.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage and cultivate relationships with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.	Candidate demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage and cultivate relationships with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.	Candidate engages as with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.	Candidate engages as with community members, partners, OR other constituencie s for the benefit of school improvement .	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage and cultivate relationships with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.
Component 5.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts when advocating for	Candidate demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts when advocating for	Candidate communicates through oral OR written OR digital means within the community when advocating for the needs of their school and community.	Candidate communicate s through oral OR written means within the community when advocating for the needs of their school.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts when advocating for the needs of

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Standard 6: Operations and				
Management				
Component 6.1 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement management, communication, technology, school- level governance, and operation systems that support each student's learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.	Candidate demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student's learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.	Candidate develops and implements management, communicatio n, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student's learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.	Candidate implements management and school-level governance systems that support each student's learning needs.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student's learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.
Component 6.2 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and advocate for a data- informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.	Candidate demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and advocate for a data-informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.	Candidate develops and advocate for a data-informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.	Candidate advocates for a plan that supports school improvement OR student development.	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and advocate for a data-informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.
Component 6.3 Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflectively evaluate, communicate about, and implement laws, rights, policies, and	Candidate demonstrates the capacity to reflectively evaluate, communicate about, and implement laws, rights,	Candidate communicates about, and implement laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student and	Candidate communicate s about laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student	Candidate does not demonstrate the capacity to reflectively evaluate, communicate about, and implement laws, rights, policies,

regulations to promote student and adult success and well-being.	policies, and regulations to promote student and adult success	adult success and well- being.	success and well-being.	and regulations to promote student and adult success and well-being.
	and well-being.			

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Standard 7: Building Professional Capacity				
Component 7.1 Program completers understand and have the capacity to collaboratively develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.	Candidate collaboratively develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.	Candidate develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.	Candidate addresses the school's capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, OR hiring staff.	Candidate does not collaboratively develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.
Component 7.2 Program completers understand and have the capacity to develop and engage staff in a collaborative professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.	Candidate develops and engages staff in a collaborative professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.	Candidate engages staff in a professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.	Candidate engages staff in a culture designed to promote school improvement , teacher retention, OR the success of each student OR adult in the school but not both.	Candidate does not develop and engage staff in a collaborative professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.
Component 7.3 Program completers understand and have the capacity to personally engage in, as well as collaboratively engage school staff in, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsiveness, distributed leadership, digital	Candidate personally engages in, as well as collaboratively engages school staff in, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsiveness, distributed	Candidate engages in, along with staff, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsivenes s, distributed leadership, digital literacy,	Candidate engages in professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsivene ss, distributed leadership, digital literacy, school	Candidate does not personally engage in, as well as collaboratively engage school staff in, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsiveness, distributed leadership, digital literacy, school

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literacy, school improvement, and student success.	leadership, digital literacy, school improvement, and student success.	school improvement, OR student success.	improvement , OR student success.	improvement, and student success.
Component 7.4 Program completers understand and have the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and	Candidate evaluates, develops, and implements systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student	Candidate develops, and implements systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student	Candidate implements systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student success.	Candidate does not evaluate, develop, NOR implement systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student success.
student success.	success.	success.		