



Course Syllabus: EDLE 6163 Dissertation Proposal

Gordon T. & Ellen West College of Education

EDLE-6163-X10 Dissertation Proposal

Fall 2026: August 24 – December 10, 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Daniel L. Frazier, Ed.D.
Office: Bridwell Hall, Room 222
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00 A.M., Wednesday,
1:00 - 2:00 P.M., and by appointment.
Cellular telephone: (515) 825-7577
eMail: daniel.frazier@msutexas.edu

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.

Syllabus Changes or Updates

This syllabus is subject to change based on a variety of factors that may impact the hybrid course design.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Does not apply.

EDLE 6163 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

Grading/Assessment

Course is graded on CR/NC.

Attendance Policy

Does not apply.

Projects Required

Adequate progress toward dissertation completion and evaluation should occur.

Quality Requirements

Artificial Intelligence

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have now provided generative and creative applications such as Chat GPT, Google Gemini, Claude, Guru, Perplexity, and others. Certainly, these tools can be quite useful in the learning process; however, the content they generate do not represent the effort and learning of the student. Submitting AI generated work in place of the original and genuine work of the student will be considered a form of academic misconduct.

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](#).

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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](#)

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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 [Schedule of Classes](#) 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 [Disability Support Services](#).

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."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
Title IX Coordinator
Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
940-397-4213
laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at
https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?MSUTexas&layout_id=6

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit <https://msutexas.edu/titleix/>

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Course Schedule

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

<u>Week or Module</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
<u>Activities/Assignments/Exams</u>	
Week 2 Meet with the committee chair regarding objectives/IRB	September 6
Week 4 Develop/finalize proposal	September 20
Week 6 Make any edits, changes	October 4
Week 8 Submit proposal (D2L) and schedule proposal hearing	October 18
Week 10 Develop IRB and submit	November 1

NOTICE:

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

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 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) 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.

References/Scientifically-Based Research/Additional Readings:

Miles, M., Huberman, A., & Saldaña, J. (2020). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A methods sourcebook*. 4th Ed. Sage. 978-1506353074

Creswell, J., & Creswell Baez, Johanna. (2021). *30 Essential Skills for the Qualitative Researcher*. 2nd Ed. Sage. 978-1544355702

Duradella, N. (2019). *Qualitative Dissertation Methodology: A guide for research design and methods*. Sage. 978-1506345161