

Dissertation Method Review for the Certificate in Qualitative Research in Education and for the Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education

A member of the faculty in the Research, Measurement, and Statistics program of the Department of Educational Policy Studies must affirm that the student plans to use for the dissertation a valid qualitative/quantitative method for the primary research inquiry in order to satisfy the requirements of the Certificate in Qualitative Research in Education or the Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education. The RMS faculty member will *not* evaluate the relevance of the study, the feasibility of the study, the extent to which the research inquiry is supported by the literature review, the potential impact of the study on the field, or any other criteria not directly concerned with the method of the dissertation being a valid qualitative and/or quantitative research method. Lack of affirmation from the RMS faculty member regarding the nature of the method does not constitute any official cause for the student not to proceed with a dissertation that has been approved by the student's dissertation committee and, if applicable, by the Institutional Review Board of Georgia State University, nor does affirmation from the RMS faculty member constitute authorization for the student to proceed with the dissertation in the absence of approval by the dissertation committee and, if applicable, approval by the Institutional Review Board of Georgia State University.

Evaluation of a dissertation, as it pertains to meeting the qualifications of a certificate, shall occur in one of two ways:

- 1) If a member of the RMS faculty who is qualified to make the evaluation is a member of the student's dissertation committee, then that faculty member shall serve as the RMS faculty who evaluates whether the dissertation meets the requirement for the intended certificate. That RMS faculty member shall also serve as the faculty member who certifies that the research inquiry of and the method used in the successfully defended dissertation did not deviate sufficiently from those of the initially affirmed dissertation so as to impact the validity of the qualitative and/or quantitative research method that was initially affirmed by RMS. The student is responsible for obtaining from that RMS faculty member the required signatures on the Dissertation Method Review form (available from the Department of Educational Studies).
- 2) If no member of the dissertation committee is a member of the RMS faculty, then the student must submit to the coordinator of the Research, Measurement, and Statistics unit a copy of the dissertation prospectus along with the Dissertation Method Review form. If the coordinator is qualified to evaluate whether the dissertation meets the requirement for the intended certificate, then the coordinator shall make the decision and supply written notice of the decision (e-mail to Georgia State University accounts will suffice) to the student and to the chair of the dissertation committee within 7 business days, not including winter/summer break, of receipt of both the prospectus and the review form. If, however, the coordinator is not qualified to make the determination, then the coordinator must provide a qualified member of the RMS faculty the prospectus and the review form within 3 business days from the date on which the prospectus and the review form were received, at which point the reviewing faculty member shall have 7 business days to provide written notice of the decision (e-mail to Georgia State University accounts will suffice) to the student and to the chair of the dissertation committee.

A negative decision from the reviewing faculty member must be accompanied by an explanation for the negative decision. Lack of response in the allotted time, as described above, shall be interpreted as affirmation of the dissertation as meeting the requirements of the intended certificate. Following successful defense of an affirmed dissertation, the chair of the dissertation committee must certify that the research inquiry of and the method used in the successfully defended dissertation did not deviate sufficiently from those of the initially affirmed dissertation so as to impact the validity of the qualitative and/or quantitative research method that was initially affirmed by RMS.