

THESIS PLANNING PANEL FORM
For Doctoral Students in Educational Psychology

The doctoral dissertation is one of the most important projects of the student's graduate school career. In order to try to maximize the quality of this project and to minimize difficulties or flaws in its conceptualization and/or implementation, the Educational Psychology faculty have instituted the Thesis Planning Panel. The signature of approval of all Panel members is required before final preparation of the project is undertaken. This Panel consists of the student's adviser and at least two additional members--one from the major and one from the minor or supporting program (ordinarily these will become the thesis readers)--selected to be especially knowledgeable about the proposed thesis topic. The student is to prepare a prospectus of his/her project. The Panel reviews this prospectus and offers suggestions.

The Thesis Planning Panel serves a secondary purpose as well. Panel members shall have the opportunity to clarify their expectations of the project and to define the criteria by which the student will be judged during the final oral examination. For these purposes, the student or adviser may request that the Panel be convened.

The Thesis Planning Panel must approve the student's dissertation prospectus before the student can submit the Graduate School's Thesis Title and thesis Statement Forms to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) for approval. Please attach this completed form (the Thesis Planning Panel Form) to the Thesis Title and Thesis Statement Forms when they are submitted to the DGS for approval.

To the Director of Graduate Studies in Educational Psychology:

The Thesis Planning Panel for _____, PhD Candidate in Educational Psychology (area of emphasis: _____), has reviewed and approved the dissertation prospectus titled:

It is our judgment that the proposed topic is appropriate for an Educational Psychology dissertation and that the proposed design and procedures show enough promise such that the student could pursue the investigation further.

We recognize that the design and procedures may change in the formative research process. If this occurs in a major way, the student will file with the DGS a revised Thesis Planning Panel Form (again signed by the Panel members).

Should the thesis title or topic change, the student will submit a revised Thesis Title and Thesis Statement form (along with the revised Thesis Planning Panel Form) for the DGS to approve and forward to the Graduate School.

Approval of this dissertation prospectus does not represent prior approval of the completed dissertation.

Signed by the Panel members:

_____	(Date)	_____	(Date)
_____	(Date)	_____	(Date)
_____	(Date)	_____	(Date)