

Dissertation Process Survey

Instructions

The purpose of the questionnaire is to ascertain doctoral students' feelings regarding the dissertation process. Your honest responses will help provide a better understanding of doctoral students' levels of anxiety and confidence about the dissertation process that they will eventually face. In the context of this survey, dissertation process means the entire process the student experiences to construct and defend the dissertation. This includes, for example, developing the research idea, developing and defending the prospectus, collecting and analyzing data for the research, writing the dissertation, and defending the dissertation before of a committee.

The following 10 statements refer to the dissertation process that you will soon experience. There are no right or wrong answers, so please answer as accurately as possible. Use the scale below to respond to each statement. If you think the statement is very true of you, circle 7; if the statement is not at all true of you, circle 1. If the statement is more or less true of you, find the number between 1 and 7 that best describes you.

Please return completed questionnaires to the instructor when finished. Thank you.

| | not at all true of me | | | | | | | very true of me |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. I believe I will do well on the dissertation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 2. I feel uneasy or uncomfortable with the dissertation process as a whole. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 3. I am confident that I can address even the hardest aspects of the dissertation process. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 4. Thinking about the upcoming dissertation process makes me feel anxious. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 5. The process of writing and defending the dissertation may be difficult or hard, but I think I will be successful anyway. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 6. I am worried about how well I will do during the dissertation defense. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 7. I know that I have learned the literature and theories that will be necessary to report in the dissertation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 8. I feel my heart beating faster as I start to think about the dissertation. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 9. I am sure that I will be able to answer some of the more challenging or difficult questions posed by the dissertation committee. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| 10. Thinking about the consequences of failing some component of the dissertation process makes me uptight. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |

Open-Ended Responses

For items 11 and 12, please provide honest, thoughtful responses. If space does not permit a full response, please continue your response on the back of this paper.

11. Which aspects of the dissertation process do you most fear or are most concerned about? Please explain why you fear or are concerned about each aspect you identify.

12. Which aspects of the dissertation process are you most comfortable with or confident about? Please explain why you are comfortable or confident with each aspect you identify.

Demographics

- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|-----|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 13. | Sex | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | 15. | How many | <input type="checkbox"/> 0-1 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | | years has it | <input type="checkbox"/> 2-3 |
| | | | | been since you | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 |
| | | | | received your | <input type="checkbox"/> 6-7 |
| 14. | Race / | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | | last college | <input type="checkbox"/> 8-9 |
| | Ethnicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-Amer. | | degree? | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 or more |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> White | | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please identify | | | |
| | | in the space below) | | | |
