



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Psychology Graduate Students

FROM: Jennifer P. Peluso, Ph.D., Assessment Coordinator (jpeluso@fau.edu)

DATE: March 20, 2009

RE: Assessment Procedures for Masters Theses and Doctoral Dissertations

I want to make you aware of a new procedure that has now been implemented in the department regarding graduate student theses and dissertations. As part of our ongoing curriculum assessment process, the faculty will be evaluating Master's theses and Doctoral dissertations at a couple of different points along their development. These evaluations will not be used for "grading" you as an individual; instead, their purpose is for the assessment of how well our graduate programs are accomplishing certain curricular goals.

The *first evaluation* will occur when you submit your thesis and/or dissertation proposal. Each member of your committee will evaluate (a) the degree to which key research questions have been operationalized; (b) the appropriateness of the proposed methodology and the quality of the data to be collected for the type of research that you intend to conduct; and (c) the appropriateness and quality of the proposed statistical analyses, using a 3-point scale (1 = below expectations, 2 = meets expectations, 3 = exceeds expectations).

The *second evaluation* will occur when you submit the first draft of your thesis and/or dissertation. Each member of the thesis or dissertation committee will evaluate (a) the quality of your literature review on the topic; (b) the quality of your interpretation of the literature in terms of central conceptual themes in the area; and (c) the potential for your research to make a significant contribution to the field, using the 3-point scale described above.

To assist your thesis and dissertation committee members in the evaluation process, please include the form on the next page as the FRONT PAGE of your thesis/dissertation proposal and as the FRONT PAGE of the first draft of your thesis/dissertation when you submit them to your committee members for consideration. The page will be completed by the faculty and submitted to the department for inclusion in our departmental assessment database.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this new procedure.

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