

## *Doctoral Students*

### **Online Ed.D./Ph.D. Student Orientation: Comps & Dissertation**

- **The Comprehensive Exam (The COMP is a non credit bearing course-all Research Courses must be completed).**

Concordia University Chicago provides students with the option of a face to face experience for the Comprehensive Exam or an online mediated experience.

- All content of the program is eligible for inclusion in the exam
- Two part exam
  - Content/Specialization
  - Foundations, Research, and Statistics
- A committee of faculty members assess student responses
- Exam dates will be listed on the CITE Landing Page
- Registration form is in the Program Guidebook
  - **Face to Face Option**
    - COMPS will be held in a live face to face setting.
  - **Online Option**
    - Taken over a specific amount of time in an online format facilitated by a committee of faculty members.

- **The Dissertation**

Concordia University Chicago provides students with the option of a face to face experience at the main campus for the Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation Defense or a video conference mediated experience.

#### **Dissertation Proposal**

- EDL 6105 Research Design
- There must be ample time given for all committee members to read the proposal before the defense date
- The defense is an oral defense. Any questions/comments given by the committee must be addressed in the revised proposal. The chair determines when the proposal has been sufficiently revised.

#### **The Dissertation**

- Your final draft
- Written in the most recent edition of APA style
- Defense
- Final Approval and binding
- Graduation

- **Dissertation Defense**  
As with the proposal, your chair will determine when your dissertation is ready to be defended. This too is an oral defense. This may be done in person at the CUC campus or may be video mediated. Any questions/comments given by the committee must be addressed in revisions of the dissertation. Your chair will give approval once all changes have been made.
- **IRB – Institutional Review Board**
  - The revised proposal is submitted to the IRB for review.
  - This process will take several weeks.
  - Changes may need to be made or additional information provided based on the feedback from the IRB.
  - No data collection can take place until you receive approval from the IRB.
- **Tips**
  - Use your coursework and assignments can be built toward your dissertation topic and research to help you
  - Talk to your advisor
  - Choose a committee that has skill, expertise, emotional support
  - Get organized
  - Set deadlines for yourself and do CUC work every day.
  - Read other people's dissertations
  - Do one part at a time
  - Save, save, save on hard drive, stick drive, flash drive, etc. and back up.
- **Campus Resources**
  - **CougarNet IT Help Desk** Toll Free 877-796-0003, or 708-209-3131, [CougarNet@cuchicago.edu](mailto:CougarNet@cuchicago.edu)
  - **Library**
  - **Portfolio Coordinator** 708-209-3112

revised September 25, 2008 Claudia Santin/Kathryn Hollywood