CCJ 7926 DISSERTATION PROPOSAL
Department of Criminal Justice
Florida International University

Course Description/Objective
Doctoral students develop a research proposal under the direction of their major professor, including an oral presentation and defense (pass/fail grading). Prerequisite: CCJ 7960.

Learning Outcomes
1. Apply your theoretical and methodological understanding and skills into devising researchable ideas and specific research questions and hypotheses,
2. Conduct a focused review of the relevant literature and create appropriate conceptual framework,
3. Develop a realistic research design with specific research strategies,
4. Think through and articulate a chapter-by-chapter outline of the intended dissertation,
5. Communicate research ideas and their appropriate theoretical and methodological issues effectively and efficiently,
6. Critique other’s ideas paying particular attention to both theoretical and methodological rigor and reality, and
7. Gain understanding of the process of dissertation including stress, time, and project management, committee formation, dissertation proposition and defense, and human subjects reviews.

Procedures
Dissertation committees must have a minimum of four members: at least three of whom are from the Department of Criminal Justice and one of whom is from another academic unit at FIU. All FIU faculty who are members of the dissertation committee must be members of the Graduate Faculty and the chair of the dissertation committee must hold Dissertation Advisor Status. A list of Graduate Faculty, including those with Dissertation Advisor Status, is available online at http://gradschool.fiu.edu/faculty-staff-grad-das-faculty.shtml. All committee appointments are made by the Dean of the University Graduate School.

Proposal Outline
Generally, the proposal will consist of: (1) A statement of the problem; (2) A comprehensive literature review; and (3) A detailed discussion of the research design/methodology. A dissertation proposal must be approved by the University Graduate School at least three semesters prior to the date of graduation.

READINGS

Research Designs
Data-Gathering Methods

Statistics (Basic-to-Intermediate) and Data Interpretation

Advanced Statistical Methods