FIRST SUMMER AND FALL
In addition to coursework, begin brainstorming your preferred dissertation topic. Review the literature to identify gaps in the research base and a rationale for your study. If literature does not exist on your topic, consult with your chair regarding a strategy for building your literature review.

FIRST SPRING
During CEPD 9183, work with your professor and meet with your dissertation chair to discuss your preferred topic and general method. Send an outline of the Intro and Lit Review to your chair. Your chair should be part of the study design process, but work primarily with your professor in CEPD 9183.

DURING CEPD 9199
Each semester, submit dissertation goals, which will be used to issue your final grade. Maintain enrollment in CEPD 9199 each semester. Work with chair consistently, and involve the committee member per your chair’s instruction.

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL
Once chapters 1-3 have been accepted by both your chair and committee member, you may propose. After successful completion of the proposal, you may apply for IRB approval (through your dissertation chair). Make sure to complete CITI trainings prior to applying for IRB approval. Data collection and participant contact cannot begin until receiving IRB approval(s). You become a “doctoral candidate” after successfully proposing.

DISSERTATION DEFENSE
Apply for graduation the semester before dissertation completion. Refer to the dissertation timeline and ProQuest deadlines to determine your anticipated semester of graduation. After chapters 4-5 have been accepted by your chair and committee member, you may defend your dissertation. After all revisions have been made and formatting is verified, submit to ProQuest.

GENERAL REMINDERS
1. Faculty are not expected to work during UWG semester breaks and holidays.
2. Faculty should be given a minimum of two weeks to review drafts, particularly in advance of the proposal and defense.
3. The proposal and defense should be no longer than 1.5 hours each, with a 20-30 minute presentation.
4. Consult with the UWG Writing Center and use Grammarly for guidance regarding academic writing.

MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW THE PLAN OF STUDY AND TALK WITH DR. WHISENHUNT IF YOU MUST DEVIATE FROM THE PLAN OF STUDY.

REFER TO THE EDD PCS DISSERTATION RESOURCES AND EDD PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND SUPERVISOR ORIENTATION “COURSES” IN D2L FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.