



## Overview

Students in the Doctor of Practical Theology (DPT) program should create their dissertation project proposal based on the following template. The proposal should be 6,000 – 8,000 words including bibliography to support a dissertation project of 40,000 – 60,000 words. This proposal is to be developed by the student in consultation with the student’s supervising committee. The supervising committee must review and approve the proposal before it proceeds to the faculty for consideration and approval. In developing a dissertation project proposal for the DPT degree it is essential that a focus on the professional practice of the researcher be maintained. In developing a DPT dissertation proposal the ministry practice that the researcher is studying must be kept in the forefront while at the same time demonstrating a vigorous interchange between that practice and the relevant theological and theoretical literature relevant to the advancement of that practice. The dissertation project proposal should also include Research Ethics Board application for any qualitative research involving human subjects.

- I. Please provide the following information on the cover page (in place of a title page):

### **APPLICATION TO WRITE A DPT DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PROJECT**

- A. Student Information
  1. Student Name and ID number
  2. Doctor of Practical Theology, Year of entry into program
  3. Date of submission
  4. Date of projected submission of dissertation
- B. Program Progress
  1. Courses (name of course, semester taken, grade)
    - a. Critical Understandings in Ministry Leadership
    - b. Advanced Research in Practical Theology
    - c. Research Design and Implementation
    - d. Professional Ethics
    - e. Advanced Elective i:
    - f. Advanced Elective ii:
    - g. Advanced Elective iii:
    - h. Advanced Elective iv:
  2. Professional Experience: write a paragraph that describes your area of professional practice and the primary research interest that has arisen in that practice.
- C. Supervisory Committee
  1. Primary Supervisor:
  2. Secondary Supervisor:

D. Dissertation Project Proposal (DPT)

1. Proposed Title:
2. Brief Description of the topic (approx. 200 words):

E. Approvals

Approved by Primary Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Secondary Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Faculty (VP Academic or Designate): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Beginning with a new page, please provide the following information:

**PROPOSED TITLE**

**Core Practice**

Identify the core practice that you are researching in this dissertation project. What is the contribution to the theoretical and theological significance of this practice? What professional experience(s) guide your research on this practice?

**Topic and Purpose**

**Importance of the Research**

Explain the reason for and potential significance of this inquiry.

Articulate the research question(s) that the dissertation will address. It is appropriate to note that there may be no hypothesis to test because PLR seeks to identify emergent knowledge.

As necessary, clearly express the limitations of the study. (i.e., What will the study examine? What will the study not examine?) Give a rationale for your focus.

Provide definitions for key terms and concepts that are relevant to this study.

**Theoretical Perspective**

What are the governing theories that guide the research on this topic/practice? Include the researcher's assumptions about the topic /question.

**Theological Framework**

Identify the theological resources and primary theological orientation that will guide the dissertation project.

**Overview of Research**

Provide a review of published literature and its potential contribution to the project. Also, identify any qualitative research that has already been done or that will be done as part of the dissertation project. Provide Research Ethics Board application and approval.

## **Design and Methodology**

Explain the following:

What methods of inquiry will be employed? (e.g., qualitative (which type), mixed methods, quantitative)

What format will the research output take? What type of artefact or what types of data may be generated? (e.g., assessment or evaluation tool, concept maps, documentation of 'outputs' and practice, flowcharts or matrices, memos, practice methodology, sermon or other 'output')

What methods of analysis will be used? (e.g., exegesis, hermeneutical analysis, interpretive phenomenological analysis, thematic analysis, etc.)

Ethical considerations (e.g., Does this research raise any possible ethical questions or concerns? How will these be addressed? etc.) MREB process?

## **DPT Dissertation Project Outline**

Provide a proposed title and summary of each chapter of the dissertation project that reflects the overall flow and general direction of the dissertation as a whole and each chapter as a specific segment.

## **Proposed Timeline**

Provide a proposed timeline for when you plan to complete each chapter and bring the dissertation to defence. Include sufficient time to obtain REB approval if not already received.

## **Bibliography**

Provide an initial bibliography of 20-30 sources relevant to the dissertation. Standard academic citation style should be observed.