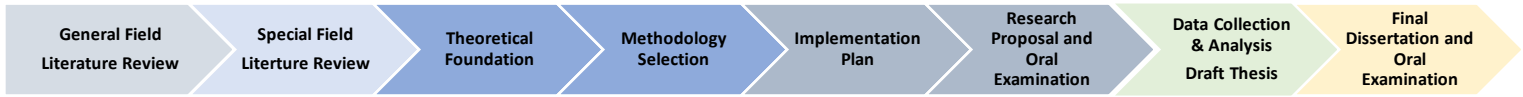


Learning Design and Leadership Exam-Dissertation Sequence: An Iterative Approach Leading to your Final Dissertation

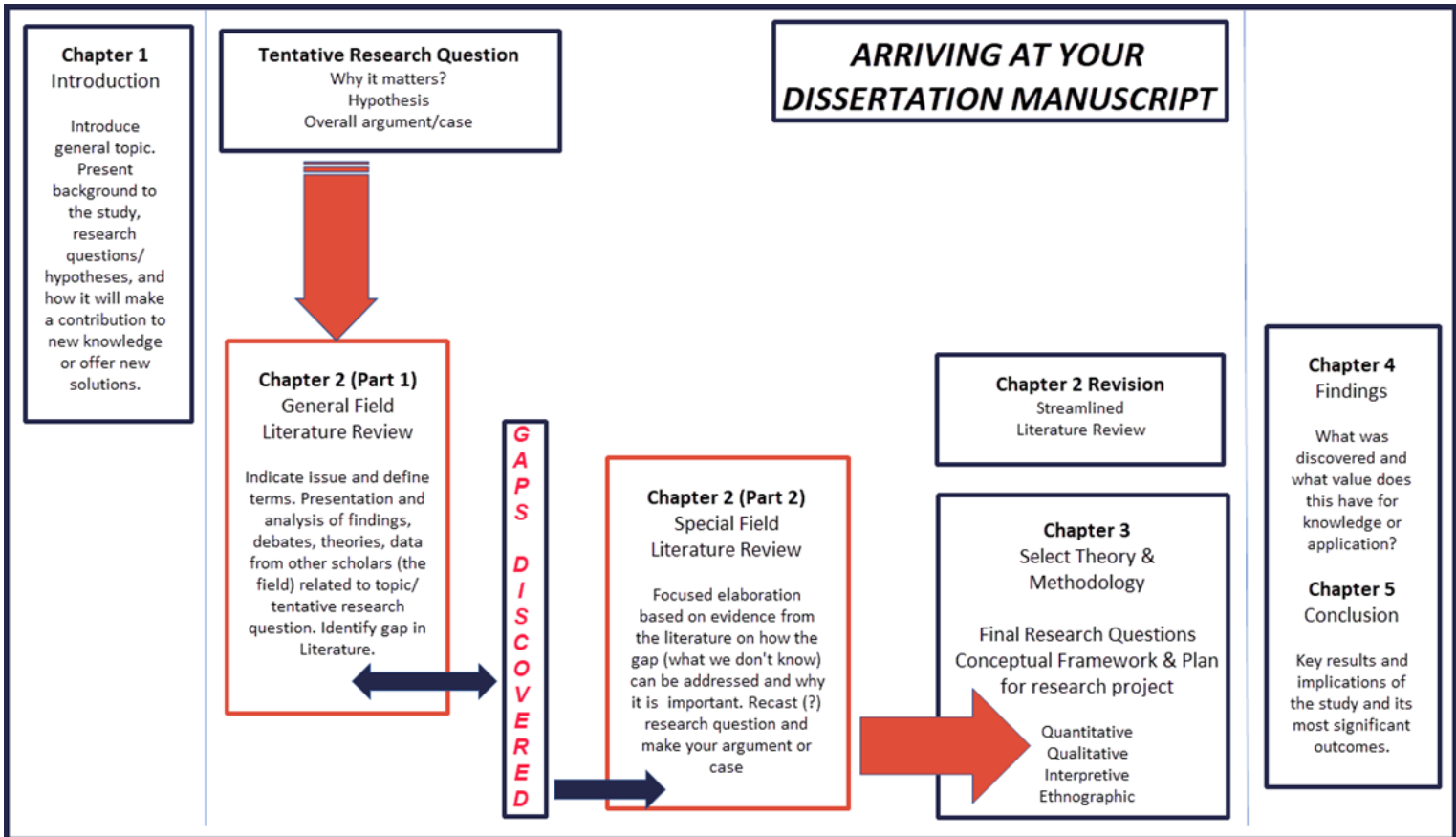
Key Milestones Leading to Your Final Dissertation



Each step includes one or more milestones



Final Dissertation Structure



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5-Chapter Dissertation Model – by Methodology

Across the three main kinds of methodology, this is how the five-chapter dissertation plays out

Dissertation Type	Qualitative Methods	Quantitative Methods	Interpretive Methods
Chapter 1: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background - Motivation and Purpose of the Study - Problem Statement, Significance and Research Questions - Brief chapter overview 	<i>Qualitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why you have chosen qualitative methods - Brief summary in the chapter overview of how you will implement these methods <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why these questions are worth answering - How the answers will likely be relevant - Reasons for your selection of qualitative methods 	<i>Quantitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why you have chosen quantitative methods - Brief summary in the chapter overview of how you will implement these methods <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why these questions are worth answering - How the answers will likely be relevant - Reasons for your selection of quantitative methods 	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What you wish to interpret, why it needs fresh re-interpretation - Why you have chosen interpretive methods - Brief summary in the chapter overview of how you will implement these methods
Chapter 2: Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Field Overview (with subheads for general themes in this area of the discipline) - Key dilemmas and enduring challenges in the general field - Special Field (with subheads for particular themes in the narrower area of your thesis topic) - Gaps in the literature in the special field 	<i>Qualitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodological alternatives and tendencies in this area of the discipline - Empirical studies, qualitative compared to quantitative in the special field <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The interpretive frame of reference of general field within the discipline - Empirical results and their interpretation in the special field 	<i>Quantitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methodological alternatives and tendencies in this area of the discipline - Empirical studies, qualitative compared to quantitative in the special field <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The interpretive frame of reference of general field within the discipline - Empirical results and their interpretation in the special field 	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general field: its interpretive frame of reference - The special field: the interpretations now applied and why they need to be revisited <i>Other Methods:</i> <p>Are the general or special field also addressed qualitative or quantitative methods? How can these results support your interpretive endeavor?</p>
Chapter 3: Theory and Methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitions of Concepts - Theoretical Model - Methods Approach: Justification and Limitations - Research Planning: sample, recruitment - Research Ethics (described here, documents in appendix) - Research Instruments (described here, documents in the appendix) - Data analysis processes 	<i>Qualitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why you have selected a particular qualitative approach - Your hypotheses: what you expect to discover - Your implementation plan <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key concepts and explanatory framework - The epistemological presuppositions behind the qualitative methods you intend to use, and your plan to apply these methods 	<i>Quantitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why you have selected a particular quantitative approach - Your hypotheses: what you expect to discover - Your implementation plan <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key concepts and explanatory framework - The epistemological presuppositions behind the quantitative methods you intend to use, and your plan to apply these methods 	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key concepts and explanatory framework - The epistemological presuppositions behind the interpretive methods you intend to use (e.g. philosophy, semiotics, cultural theory), and your plan to apply these methods - Your plan of action for tackling this interpretive project
Chapter 4: Findings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Divide findings into sections and subsections with thematic headings and subheadings 	<i>Qualitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quotes, paraphrases, images, videos <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empirical narrative: qualitative data systematically organized around your interpretive frame 	<i>Quantitative aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - datasets, data visualizations <i>Interpretive aspects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empirical narrative: quantitative data systematically organized around your interpretive frame 	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> Theoretical narrative: systematically laying out your revised interpretation
Chapter 5: Conclusions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflection on the Intellectual Journey - Summary of Findings - Implications: Recommendations for Action and Future Research 	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> What does this all mean (concluding interpretations)? Where do we go next (more qualitative empirical work)?	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> What does this all mean (concluding interpretations)? Where do we go next (more quantitative empirical work)?	<i>Interpretive aspects:</i> What does this all mean (concluding interpretations)? Where do we go next (more interpretive work)?



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5-Chapter Dissertation Model

Chapter 1. Introduction. Outlines what the thesis is about – it includes the background to the study, research questions, and how it will make a contribution to new knowledge or offer new solutions.

Chapter 2. Literature Review. This chapter consists of two parts, addressing the literature from the perspectives of the general and special field. The general field literature review is a summary and analysis of key literature that is relevant to the research question/hypothesis. Its focus is the general framework within which scholars have addressed these questions. It also reveals and discusses any gaps in the literature. The special field literature review then addresses the gaps revealed by the general field literature review and any finely focused research and thinking that may be relevant to the study's research project. This chapter also includes an explanation about how the research project addresses an important gap in the scholarly literature or an important area of practical need.

Chapter 3. Theory and Methods. The first part of this chapter offers definitions of the key concepts, and the explanatory framework that connects these concepts for the area that the research project is exploring or testing. Connecting theory to methods are your hypotheses, or anticipated possible answers to your research questions, answers for which your methods will provide evidence. The second part of this chapter outlines and justifies your method (or methods). This will include an analysis of the underlying epistemology—how well these intensively focused knowledge processes render empirical data or explanations deeper and broader than knowledge casually acquired in everyday experience of the lifeworld? And as every methodology has its critics, what are the main critiques of this approach? What are the limitations of these methods? The chapter concludes by describing the techniques and instruments used to collect and analyze data, referring to the instruments themselves (in the appendices), and an implementation plan. (This presentation will be in the future tense for the preliminary examination, then revised into the past tense for the final examination.)

Chapter 4. Findings. Present the results of dissertation study/research project – what was discovered and what value does this have for knowledge or application?

Chapter 5. Conclusions. Discusses key results and implications of the study and its most significant outcomes. Presents models of action and recommends research agendas for the future.