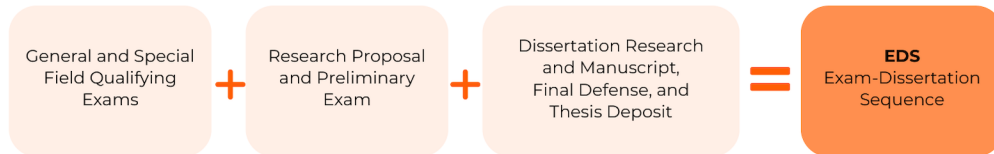


EDS Mythbusters

Myth 1: The EDS is all about my dissertation

Mythbuster: The EDS is a series of incremental and cumulative milestones that prepare you for your two qualifying exams, preliminary exam, and ultimately your dissertation. It is important to take one step at a time. Don't jump to the end.

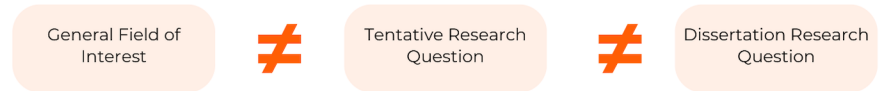


Myth 2: I need to know my dissertation topic before I can begin the EDS

Mythbuster: We ask you to identify a "tentative research" question solely for the purpose of helping you identify your general field of interest, which helps you get started on your journey, but this is not your dissertation research question. We hope through our advising sessions and community updates you will begin to get an idea of what your general field might be.

Myth 3: My tentative research question needs to be specific, and it needs to include my potential research site.

Mythbuster: Your tentative question should be open, just detailed enough to help you identify your general field of interest. You should not determine your research project at this stage. While you might have an idea, you must set this aside until directed otherwise. And it is completely fine to not yet have a research site selected. You will determine your actual research study once you arrive at the methodology chapter (step 3 in the EDS).



Myth 4: My literature review needs to address a problem, a research question, and/or prove a particular point of view. It should demonstrate what I know or have experienced with supporting sources.

Mythbuster: Your literature review should be evidence-based and demonstrate a deep investigation into your field. It should represent all sides revealed from existing literature, including the history, theories, definitions, findings, debates, etc. associated with your field. Theories or themes should not be selected in advance. Do not select sources in order to meet a specific agenda.

Myth 5: I need to know my special field of interest in advance/at the same time as my general field.

Mythbuster: Your special field of interest should emerge as a result of the gaps in the literature uncovered during your general field literature review.

Myth 6: Everything is on a specific timeline, and my progress will always align with what I have registered for.

Mythbuster: While there are milestones you must complete, these are not formal classes with weekly instruction or deadlines. You select the pace, you choose how much you want to engage with faculty and peers beyond the minimum expectations. Registration is simply to help you earn credit towards your degree.

Exam-Dissertation Sequence: A Journey of Discovery

