CLASS DAYS and TIME: This is fully online. The student will conference in a minimum of 2 times per month. The student and Course Director will establish a contract that will outline meeting times.

CLASSROOM: Does not apply. Course is fully online

COURSE FACULTY: Course Director: Melanie V. Taverna MSDH, RDH

OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS: By appointment only 2.600U1 Long Campus, School of Dentistry

EMAIL: Taverna@UTHSCSA.edu

TELEPHONE: 210-567-3858

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course allows the graduate student to review the literature and to design a research project, under the direction of a faculty advisor, that leads toward thesis research. Students are expected to design a research proposal that prepares them to collect and analyze data for their future thesis project.

Course Rationale: This course begins to formalize the thesis process. Selecting a research mentor will assist the student in narrowing the research focus and begin the project. The student will complete the review of the literature, methods and materials chapters of their thesis.

Pre-requisites – Successful completion of core studies for the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program to include Educational Principles and Applications, Research Principles and Applications, Biostatistics, and Professional Communication.

Semester credit hours – 3.0 credit hours

The objectives for this course are designed to facilitate the student’s progress toward their thesis project. By the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Define research proposal and conduct a final literature review.
- Write drafts of the literature review to be edited by the course director
- Compose a final draft of the literature review
- Compose drafts for the thesis introduction chapter
- Compose drafts of the methods and material chapter
- Select a thesis chair and committee members
- Develop a plan of action for completing the thesis; the Pre-Candidacy checklist should guide this plan.
- Complete Graduate School forms necessary for the admission to candidacy
- Complete CITI training for IRB approval of research protocol
- Receive approval from IRB for research protocol, copy of approval letter must be submitted to course director.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This is a self-paced course facilitated by a faculty advisor. On-campus, or electronic meetings will be arranged with the course director to assure goals are met in a timely manner.

Computer Access – The student is required to have a computer, internet access that will be capable of utilizing CANVAS Learning Management System, Microsoft Outlook Email, UTHSCSA.edu website, Qualtrics Survey Platform, and UTHSCSA Library resources. The student is required to have a compatible / up to date Microsoft Office Suite with Word, and PowerPoint. The student is responsible for contacting UT IMS at http://ims.uthscsa.edu/student_support/index.aspx or 210-567-7777 to ensure their computer has the appropriate security software installed.

Reading Assignments – Any reading requirements is based on the individual student project.

ATTENDANCE

Fully online courses do not have attendance policies. However, attendance in the course will be monitored by discussion board interactions, completed assignments, and conferences.

TEXTBOOKS


Instructions for Preparation and Submission of Theses, Dissertation and Dissertation Abstracts – on line at http://gsbs.uthscsa.edu/blog/tips-for-writing-a-ph.d.-thesis

Recommended: This will be based on the student project. Additional: access apastyle.apa.org and Grammarly.com at https://www.grammarly.com/?q=brand&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=brand_f1&utm_content=32985936576&utm_term=grammarly%20com&matchtype=e&placement=&network=g&gclid=CjwKCAjwrvv3BRAJEiwAhwOdM-KpyjKzgaMa29K044miXUSYe8wXrkeCiLPXNxlupJ2wW2xdPaxFBoC-h4QAvD_BwE

GRADING POLICIES AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

This course is designed to facilitate the student progress toward their thesis project. The following activities will be accomplished:

1) Review of the literature outline, must be approved
2) Completion of Literature Review for thesis project
3) Request thesis committee chair and members in writing, provide a copy of the letters and agreements to course director.
4) Finalize research proposal
5) Write methods and material section (draft)
6) Completion and submission of graduate forms to include –
   a. Composition of Supervising Committee, Master of Science Degree
   b. Petition for Admission to Candidacy for the degree of Master of Science
7) Development of action plan to implement thesis project, defense, and subsequent publication.
8) Complete CITI training required prior to submission of project to the IRB
9) Submit project to IRB for approval
10) Development of time-line for thesis project
11) Creation of thesis committee to include written commitment of committee members
12) Completion of Pre-Candidacy checklist (sections I, II and III)

Grading System
The overall course grade (successful/unnecessary) is based upon completion of all course goals.
REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

In accordance with policy 4.2.3, Request for Accommodation Under the ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), any student requesting accommodation must submit the appropriate request for accommodation under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA, form 100) to his/her appropriate Associate Dean of their School and a copy to the ADA Coordinator. Additional information may be obtained at http://uthscsa.edu/eeo/request.asp.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline as prescribed by the UT System Rules and Regulations of the Board of Regents. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, signing attendance sheets for another student, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such an act. Additional information may be obtained at http://catalog.uthscsa.edu/generalinformation/generalacademicpolicies/academicdishonestypolicy/.

TITLE IX AT UTHSCSA

Title IX Defined:
The title of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. It reads “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

UT Health San Antonio’s Commitment:
UT Health San Antonio is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. As required by Title IX, UTHSCSA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities, and it encourages any student, faculty, or staff member who thinks that he or she has been subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment (including sexual violence) or sexual misconduct to immediately report the incident to the Title IX Director.

In an emergency, victims of sexual abuse should call 911. For non-emergencies, they may contact UPD at 210-567-2800. Additional information may be obtained at http://students.uthscsa.edu/titleix/.

EMAIL POLICY

Every student is issued a University e-mail address and account at the time the student first enrolls. As a standing University Policy, only the students’ University e-mail address shall be used for any electronic institutional communications of an official nature.

EMAIL OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 8:00-5:00, excluding holidays: Electronic messages sent Monday through Thursday will be responded to within 48 hours. Messages sent Friday after 3 PM or weekends will be responded to by the following Tuesday.

USE OF RECORDING DEVICES

Does not apply to online courses

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Does not apply to online courses