

Project

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Completing the project option may be of interest to students currently working in classrooms or other applied settings. The goal of a project is that you will leave the graduate program with something useful and practical that is derived from relevant research/literature that could be implemented in a related work setting in the future.

For a project you will:

- (1) Create a Written Project Proposal
- (2) Complete an Oral Proposal of the Project Meeting with committee members
- (3) Create Project materials (e.g., curriculum, handbook, podcast) and update written project document to include these materials and conclusion/discussion
- (4) Complete an Oral Project Defense.

A completed project is an applied activity that is developed from your knowledge of child development and literature in the field. It should be a minimum of 35-50 pages in length (including text and references); it should follow the writing/format style outlined in the APA Publication Manual. In addition, it should include all of the “materials”, curriculum, etc. that you would if you were going to implement the project.

A completed Project typically includes 5 sections: Introduction, extensive literature review, summary and purpose of the project, methods (intended audience and detailed layout and materials for the project), and conclusion (summary of project)

Written and Oral Project Proposal

CD-6952-6954 (for a total of 4 units) should be taken or completed during the semester in which you plan to propose your project. The last course number in the title (bolded) reflects the number of units so you can choose how many units you take in a given semester.

This course is the time dedicated to writing your project proposal and scheduling your Oral Project Proposal Meeting. Failure to complete your written project proposal will result in a C or failing grade in the course. In which case you will be required to re-take the course to replace the failing grade.

This course will be supervised by your project advisor, who will provide guidance throughout the writing process as well as consult with you on the selection of two additional faculty members to serve on your project committee. This three- person committee is responsible for approving your project proposal prior to you moving forward with the rest of your project creation.

When writing the project proposal be sure to follow the format instructions provided by

the office of Graduate Studies. That office has specific format instructions to which you must adhere. Detailed information is provided in the Thesis/Project Handbook, which is available for download at the following website: <http://gradstudies.csusb.edu/>

A project proposal will include the following sections:

1. Introduction (1-2 pages)
2. Literature Review
3. Methods containing:
 - General Outline of the program/project being proposed
 - how it would to assess or evaluate the quality of the proposed program/project.
 - No additional materials/content will be created for the proposal meeting

Once the written project proposal is complete you will schedule an Oral Project Proposal with your committee members to review and assess your project proposal. You will need to prepare a brief summary presentation of the project; this presentation should be NO LONGER than 10-15 minutes as your committee has already read your proposal.

The Oral Project Proposal will be an opportunity for your committee members to ask questions and request revisions. Committee members will review and provide feedback about what is proposed prior to students creating actual materials. They will also decide whether your Project Proposal is approved.

Contact the department office at least two weeks in advance of your anticipated proposal date, so that a Project Proposal form can be prepared and a conference room reserved. (Note: The full title of your project and the members of your committee must be established by this time in order for your paperwork to be generated.)

***Please keep in mind that you must successfully propose your project before enrolling in CD-6964.**

After Project Proposal Approval

Once you have successfully orally proposed your project, your next step is to enroll in CD 6964. This course is designed to help you finalize the project, such as creating materials/curriculum and writing up your conclusion for your project and preparing for your Final Oral Defense. CD 6964 also includes preparation for Graduate Studies review process. If you do not finish by the end of the term, a grade of RP (Report in Progress) will be posted until you are finished (1- year time limit). Please register for CD 6964 only once.

NOTE: Students will NOT implement project

Project Conclusion may discuss:

- What could be expanded or changed based on your reflection of what you created
- Based on committee feedback changes that could be made to the program/project (implementation, content, etc.)
- Considerations for what the project could look like if implemented with a related demographic (e.g. created for teachers, but then consider how it might look if the

- focus was parents)
- Future considerations; what could be done after this project was implemented?
Follow-up content?

Final Oral Defense

After your project is complete, you must schedule your final project oral defense. In preparation of the Final Oral Defense you need to (1) finalize all edits, revisions, and additions to the written project (be sure to adjust language from “the proposed project” to “the current project”) and (2) Create an oral presentation (10-15 min max) that includes a brief summary of your project and then details of materials created and conclusion, strengths and weaknesses of the project, and what you would do differently in the future.

Contact the department office at least two weeks in advance of your anticipated defense date, so that an Oral Defense form can be prepared and a conference room reserved. If you made any changes to the title of your project and/or the members of your committee from the time that you proposed, please inform the department so that your information can be updated.

You must have completed your oral defense by the date stipulated by department policy in order to participate in Spring commencement exercises.

Continuous Enrollment

Warning: If you have completed all other course requirements for your degree and are not taking additional courses, you should enroll in CD-6990 (Continuous Enrollment) all subsequent semesters until you have finished your project to maintain your current status within the program.

Failure to maintain continuous enrollment will result in dismissal from the university. If you need to take a leave of absence, you must obtain approval from the program coordinator and the Dean of Graduate Studies.