NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Applied Social and Community Psychology Program
Second Year Research Project Requirements

Overview
The second year research project is an empirical project that involves either primary or secondary data analysis. It is designed for students to develop skills and gain experience in conducting a research study. The student's advisor supervises the project with feedback provided by a second reader.[1]

Planning
Planning for the second year research project can begin at any time between a student and advisor. This planning may include individual meetings or consultation with the second reader, as well as other committee members, in addition to meetings between a student and advisor.

It is strongly recommended that a student form their doctoral committee by the end of their first year, recognizing that the committee may change during the course of a student's training. However, a student's doctoral committee does not need to be formed prior to the second year research project.

Requirements and Process
The second year research project requirements include: 1) a written proposal, 2) a short presentation, and 3) a journal-style paper. These requirements will be completed through the following process:

1. The second year research project proposal is a document that provides the rationale for the study, detailed methods, planned analyses, and anticipated outcomes. Proposals will be written in APA format and are a maximum of 15 pages double spaced, 12pt Times New Roman (or equivalent) font, not including figures, tables, and references. The proposal is submitted to the advisor by Fall Break of the student's second year. The proposal will be approved by the end of the fall semester of that same year. A group meeting including the second reader and/or other members of the committee may be requested by the advisor, but is not required.

2. The project will be presented during the Applied Social and Community Psychology Spring Conference as a 15-minute presentation with 5 minutes for questions.

3. The student's advisor will be responsible for collecting feedback from the second reader on the quality of writing, presentation, and constructive feedback.

4. The final product is a journal-style manuscript adhering to journal word limits. The final write-up will be due by the start of the student's third year. The end of this process culminates in a decision point among faculty as to whether the student should progress to prelims.

5. Satisfactory completion of the second year project is determined by the faculty advisor and second reader.

Penalties for Non-Timely Completion
The timelines identified above are expected completion dates, recognizing that there may be extenuating circumstances that preclude timely completion (e.g., delays with IRB approval, access to data, etc.).

Conferring a MS Degree
In rare circumstances, a student may receive a MS degree based upon successful completion of the second year project. Refer to the Department of Psychology and to the NC State Graduate School for further information on satisfying the MS degree minimum requirements.

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[1] For students who elect to complete the publication-based dissertation, a publication based upon the 2nd year research project may count as one of the three required publications; however, this must be discussed and agreed upon by all committee members at the time of the dissertation proposal.