



## **DOCTORAL PROJECT/DISSERTATION**

The Doctoral Project is a formal document that provides a supporting argument for a thesis or a proposition. The objective of developing this document is to contribute new knowledge to a specific or several fields. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the DDes program at FIU, the Doctoral Project's content and format have been adopted from several disciplines. To conduct the Doctoral project, candidates can base their work on one of the following models:

### **I. Science-Based Doctoral Projects**

Science-based doctoral projects often involve quantitative research with a focus on studying the physical world or a natural phenomenon. This model involves the formulation of a conjecture or hypothesis leading to certain predictions that can be tested out by various experiments. The typical structure for this type of project requires an introduction, a hypothesis to be validated or refuted by data collection and analysis using an experiment (s), a description of the method used for conducting the experiment(s), and a detailed result section followed by a conclusion.

### **II. Humanities-Based Doctoral Projects**

Humanities dissertation projects are often qualitative in nature and follow an essay or a book format. The emphasis here is often more on questioning assumptions than on establishing truths. The typical format consists of an introduction outlining the question(s) being addressed, a literature review demonstrating the command of the field, the main body of research consisting of 3-5 chapters, and a conclusion or presentation of research findings.

### **III. Design/Practice-Based Doctoral Projects**

Design-based projects are grounded in the conceptualization and execution of a design or a design-related methodology. These projects are well-researched proposals for an artifact or an intervention at various scales or the development of a software program or fabrication technique. The typical structure of design-based projects consists of an introduction addressing the challenge or opportunity, an examination of precedents, and context, followed by a detailed description and presentation of the design process, and method of articulation. This model is expected to make a significant contribution to architectural design and/or fabrication in the broadest sense.

If the Doctoral Project is a written submission, it should consist of 35,000 to 60,000 words. If the Doctoral Project is a design/practice-based submission, it should consist of 15,000 to

35,000 words along with full documentation of the design. Projects that do not fit within a single model can use a combination of the guidelines provided under each model subject to the approval of the Chair.

### **Doctoral Project Proposal & Approval Process**

The Doctoral Project begins in the first semester. It is therefore vital to establish supervisory arrangements as soon as possible. Candidates should start exploring potential committee members from the very beginning of the first semester and confirm them by the end of the first semester.

The precise nature and scope of the Doctoral Project should be agreed upon between the Candidate and Chair and can vary according to the nature of the research. Progress with the Doctoral Project will be monitored by the Chair of the doctoral committee and reviewed at the end of each semester at the in-person/online Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS) reviews. Presentations for these MBUS progress reviews will consist of a PowerPoint presentation offering an overview of key developments, that includes a diagram illustrating the structure of the proposed study, and a tentative schedule consisting of deliverables and key delivery dates.

The process of proposal preparation begins at the start of the first semester. The Candidate should:

1. Propose a Chairperson for their project and get their agreement to serve as the Chair. The Committee's official Chairperson must be a faculty member at FIU School of Architecture with a doctoral degree.
2. Convene up to two individuals to serve on their committee at least one of whom should be a faculty member within FIU.
3. After the committee indicates that the candidate is ready to defend the proposal, the candidate schedules a proposal defense presentation. This will be scheduled by the Program Director as a part of a group presentation.
4. Upon the final approval of the proposal by the Chair and Committee members, the candidate completes the D-1 form and submits it to the Architecture Department.

The formal Doctoral Project Proposal submitted to the Department of Architecture should be about **2000 words**. This will include an introduction of the topic, purpose, and significance of the study, research question, and research design or methodology. The proposal should demonstrate that the candidate has a well-defined project that can be completed within the timeframe and resources available, understands its significance, and has a command of the appropriate existing body of research in formulating the proposal.

## **Doctoral Project Defense & Approval Process**

The process for the completion of the Doctoral Project:

1. After the Chair indicates that the candidate is ready to defend the Doctoral Project, the Program Director schedules a defense presentation ideally as a part of the end-of-semester group review.
2. The candidate sends a draft of the Doctoral Project to the Committee at least three weeks before the defense presentation.
3. The Committee will provide feedback to the candidate a week before the defense presentation. Upon receipt of feedback from the Committee, the candidate revises the Doctoral Project.
4. The candidate prepares an announcement for their final defense. The announcement should include the one-page project abstract.
5. The candidate defends their final draft as a part of the end-of-semester group review.
6. After the completion of the final defense, the candidate incorporates any further feedback and submits the final document to their Committee and Chair for final approval one week before the semester deadline for grade submissions.
7. Upon approval of the final draft, the candidate completes the D-2 form and gets the signature of the Chair and Committee Members, Architecture Chair, and CARTA Dean. Completion of this form will require a one-page abstract of the project.
8. Upon completion of the D-2 form, the Program Director submits the final grade for the Doctoral Project before the semester deadline for grade submissions.
9. Graduation!

**Proposed Schedule for Completion of  
Doctor of Design Project**

<b>Proposed Doctoral Project Schedule</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b> <i>(Fall)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research topics and areas of interest.</li> <li>▪ Learn about faculty expertise and their research areas.</li> <li>▪ Identify research area and research method.</li> <li>▪ Select Doctoral Project Chair.</li> <li>▪ Present the research interest to faculty.</li> </ul>
<b>Semester 2</b> <i>(Spring)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submit a draft of the Doctoral Project proposal to the Chair.</li> <li>▪ Select Committee members.</li> <li>▪ Submit the final draft of the proposal to the Chair and Committee members.</li> <li>▪ Schedule your Proposal Defense with the Chair.</li> <li>▪ Defend/Present your complete proposal.</li> <li>▪ Complete D1 form and submit it to the Architecture Department.</li> </ul>
<i>(Summer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work on the Doctoral Project/Dissertation.</li> </ul>
<b>Semester 3</b> <i>(Fall)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work on the Doctoral Project/ Dissertation.</li> </ul>
<b>Semester 4</b> <i>(Spring)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work on the Doctoral Project/ Dissertation.</li> </ul>
<i>(Summer)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to work on the Doctoral Project/ Dissertation</li> <li>▪ Submit the first full draft to the Chair.</li> </ul>
<b>Semester 5</b> <i>(Fall)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respond to feedback from Chair and submit the second draft to the Chair and Committee members.</li> <li>▪ Upon Approval of the Doctoral Project, prepare for presentation/ doctoral defense.</li> <li>▪ After successful defense prepare D2 form and submit it to the Architecture Department</li> <li>▪ Prepare the Book.</li> </ul>



**Doctoral Project Proposal Approval Form (D1)**

Student Name:

Panther ID:

Doctoral Project Topic Title:

Email:

Phone Number:

Date:

**➤ As Major Professor (or Co-major Professor), my signature below affirms that I am an expert in the subject matter of the proposed Doctoral Project. I understand my mentoring commitment to be continuous throughout the duration of this Doctoral Project.**

Major Professor (FIU Fulltime, Doctoral Faculty)

Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members (minimum of two members, one of which is fulltime FIU Graduate faculty, Other(s) may be outside FIU)

Member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPROVED BY:**

Program Director:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Preliminary Approval of Doctoral Project Form (D2)**

Student Name:

Panther ID:

Dissertation Title:

Email:

Phone Number:

Date:

➤ **My signature below affirms that I have read the dissertation and find it provisionally acceptable. The major/co-major professor(s) attest(s) that the content is original work.**

Major Professor:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPROVED BY:**

Program Director:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chair:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dean of College:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_