# Track 1 Preparation Plan

Your Track 1 Preparation Plan consists of two sections. In Section 1, you will use the feedback from your peers and your instructor to assess your development as an independent researcher and to develop a plan to improve your research skills between Tracks 1 and 2. In the second section, you will build upon your Track 1 final assessment to refine the work on your Research Plan and prepare to continue the iterative process in Track 2.

 **Section 1 – Skill Development**

In Track 1, each activity in the Track 1 Dissertation Research Seminar Courseroom and the Residency are tied to specific outcomes, competencies, and objectives. Over the course of your Track 1 experience, you received feedback from your instructor and your peers. Use the feedback that you received from your instructor and peers to identify specific competencies that you need to develop between Tracks 1 and 2. Then, in the right hand column state the objective(s) that align with the competency that you need to develop, the action(s), the resources that you will need to develop your skills, and the date you will complete the action(s). This includes competencies that you did not meet in Track 1 and/or competencies that you are continuing to develop to prepare for Track 2.

Each Dissertation Research Seminar Track builds upon the next Track and your skill development as an independent researcher depends upon your work to develop your research skills as defined in the Dissertation Research Seminar Outcomes and Competencies. Always be aware of your strengths and areas that require additional development. Utilize your time in your coursework to improve your research skills. Use as many action steps as you need to articulate your plans. Remember, you are developing a plan that you will work on between now and the Track 2 Dissertation Research Seminar Course.

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| **Dissertation Research Seminars****Academic Outcomes** | **Track 1 Competencies** | **Developmental Plan** |
| 1. **Scholar Practitioner:** Develop the attributes of scholarship as they are applied to practice.
 | Identify the qualities and skills of a scholar practitioner professional within respective disciplines.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Identify personal attributes of a scholar-practitioner. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Plan how to develop the scholar practitioner identity within the discipline. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| **2. Critical Thinker:** Acquire the ability to analyze, critique, and synthesize information during all phases of the Ph.D. degree program learning process. | Apply the process and characteristics of critical thinking. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Evaluate the importance and value of a scholarly discourse.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Support ideas and concepts with evidence from the literature.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| **3. Researcher:** Conduct valid, reliable, and ethical research. | Problem: Assess research problems and questions in scholarly articles. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Literature: Evaluate the credibility of scholarly articles. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Approach and Methodology: Articulate basic scientific method and research approaches. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Analysis and conclusion: Analyze the various methodologies used by scholars to answer research questions in the literature. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| Ethics: Articulate the role of ethics and academic integrity in academic interactions and in scientific research. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |
| **4. Professional Communicator:** Communicate effectively in one’s discipline and professionalPractice. | Apply academic communication skills in verbal and written interactions.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed |

**Section 2 – Research Plan**

A dissertation is said to have scientific merit when the study:

1. Advances the scientific knowledge base in the field and your specialization area.
2. Makes a contribution to research theory.
3. Meets certain hallmarks of good research methodology.

Your Track 1 Preparation Plan will focus on items 1 and 2.

In Track 1:

1. You initiated a preliminary search of the professional literature to identify a potential topic area for your dissertation that is appropriate for research within your program and specialization.
2. Your initial investigation indicated a possible need to conduct additional research in your topic area.
3. Your preliminary review of the literature yielded a potential research problem.
4. Your preliminary review of the literature yielded a potential theory to guide your research.

In Track 1 you discovered support for a potential research problem. Between Tracks 1 and 2, you take the next step in the iterative process. Now you must conduct a deeper search of the literature to demonstrate that you have identified a gap in the body of knowledge for your specialization. Return to the literature and follow the current research to support the problem and the need for you to conduct additional research.

Between Tracks 1 and 2, it is very important that you continue to develop your Dissertation Research Plan. First, review the feedback from your instructor for u10a1. Use the feedback to revise your plan. Next, you will return to the literature and begin to develop Section 2. Research Overview. While the instructions call for at least 10 articles, pay close attention to the statement that you should review ***a******minimum*** of 75 articles related to your topic.

Continue to work on the following sections of your Dissertation Research Plan between Tracks 1 and 2:

* Research Topic
* Research Problem
* Research Problem Background
* Theoretical Foundations
* Contributions to Theory
* Theoretical Implications
* Practical Implications

**Please state the quarter and the year that you expect to attend your Track 2 Dissertation Research Seminar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Note:**You will submit an updated copy of this plan at the beginning of the Track 2 courseroom. It is expected that you will have completed all of the action steps you identified in Section 1 and continued to develop the sections of your Dissertation Research Plan listed in Section 2 prior to entering the Track 2 courseroom.