**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 Colloquium Courseroom and the Weekend Experience 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 Colloquia 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 Colloquia 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 Colloquium Course.

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| **Colloquia** **Academic Outcomes** | **Track 1 Competencies and sub competencies** | **Developmental Plan** |
| 1. **Scholar Practitioner:** Develop the attributes of scholarship as they are applied to practice.
 | Recognize the qualities and skills of a scholar practitioner professional within respective disciplines.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Recognize 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 item 1.

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. Finally, your preliminary review of the literature yielded a potential research problem.

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.

Below are three sections of the Research Plan. Follow the directions for each section. You must be succinct in responding to each area and you must apply your critical thinking skills to synthesize a large body of literature to respond to each section. You are conducting a scientific investigation. Search the literature, follow the clues, and begin writing when you have the evidence to present your findings to your peers and instructor in Track 2.

**Research Topic**

Describe the specific topic to be studied in a paragraph. Follow the directions in the Track I Courseroom presentation, *Creating a Successful Research Topic* (u03s1). Then, in a second paragraph describe how this topic is related to the field and your specialization area.

**Research Literature Review**

Update the literature review you began in Track 1 with the literature you have developed since. Provide a brief (3 paragraphs) review of the research literature on the topic.

1. This should indicate that you have performed a full review of the literature on the topic by providing a statement about the body of existing literature on the topic with appropriate citations.
2. Then, you should summarize recent research findings on the topic, highlighting the findings that are most relevant to your proposed study and demonstrate how your proposed research could add to the existing literature on the topic. Be sure to provide appropriate in text citations and include references in the reference section.

This will be an initial literature review and not the full literature review for your dissertation. You will continue to add to your literature review throughout your coursework and the Colloquia.

**5. Research Problem**

Write a brief statement (one paragraph) that fully describes the problem being addressed. Follow the instructions provided in the presentation in the Track I Courseroom, *Developing a Research Problem from a Research Topic* (u08s1).

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

**Note:**You will submit an updated copy of this plan at the beginning of the Track 2 Colloquium Courseroom. It is expected that you will have completed all of the action steps you identified in Section 1 and the components of your Research Plan in Section 2 prior to entering your Track 2 Colloquium course. In Track 2, you will transfer the information in Section 2 to your school’s Research Plan to continue the iterative process.

**For Psychology Learners Only:**

Complete Milestone 1 – Ethics Education before you begin the Track 2 Colloquium Courseroom.

On iGuide, go to Learning Resources, Dissertation Research at Capella, Research Ethics Training and follow the instructions to complete Milestone 1.

State the date that you plan to complete the Ethics Education modules: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_