**Track 2 Preparation Plan**

Your Track 2 Preparation Plan consists of two sections. In the Section 1, you will use the feedback from your peers and your instructors to assess your development as an independent researcher and to develop a plan to improve your research skills between Tracks 2 and 3. In the second section, you will build upon your Track 2 final assessment to refine the work on your Research Plan and prepare to continue the iterative process to complete your Research Plan in Track 3.

**Section 1 – Skill Development**

In Track 2, each activity in the Track 2 Colloquium Courseroom and the Weekend Experience are tied to specific outcomes, competencies, and objectives. Over the course of your Track 2 experience, you received feedback from your instructor and your peers. Use the feedback that you received from your instructor and peers to identify competencies that you need to develop between Tracks 2 and 3. 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 2 and/or competencies that you are continuing to develop to prepare for Track 3.

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 3 Colloquium Course.

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| **Colloquia** **Academic Outcomes** | **Track 2 Competencies** | **Developmental Plan** |
| 1. **Scholar Practitioner:** Develop the attributes of scholarship as they are applied to practice.
 | Articulate the qualities and skills of the scholar practitioner professional during the research design process. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Recognize one’s own personal attributes as a scholar-practitioner during the research design process. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Analyze personal progress to develop the scholar practitioner identity during the research design process. | 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 advanced critical thinking skills to research methods and design. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Synthesize ideas and concepts from previous research to form new frameworks to guide new research. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Support ideas and concepts with evidence from the literature in proposing research methods and design. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| **3. Researcher:** Conduct valid, reliable, and ethical research. | Problem: Develop research questions that align with an identified problem.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Literature: Analyze the existing literature to identify knowledge gaps in the literature. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Approach and Methodology: Propose a research methodology that aligns with an identified problem.  | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Analysis and conclusion: Analyze the various methods available for data analysis. | Objective:Action:Resource:Date to be completed: |
| Ethics: Apply ethics and academic integrity 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 within the scientific research process. | 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 2 Preparation Plan will focus on items 1, 2, and 3.

In Track 2:

You continued to build on your search of the professional literature to:

1. Develop a title for your dissertation.
2. Identify and select a research topic for your dissertation that is appropriate for research within your program and specialization.
3. Create a coherent and explicit argument illustrating how your research question(s) is derived from your research problem.
4. Describe the purpose of your study.
5. Identify and select the theoretical framework(s) for your study.
6. Select a methodology and a basic research design to respond to your research question(s).
7. Identify and select a population and to develop a sampling plan.

You developed the content of your Research Plan required to submit to your specialization for topic approval. In Track 3, continue your search of the literature and complete your Research Plan. Your Research Plan is the blueprint for your dissertation. Between Tracks 2 and 3, you will utilize the feedback that you received from your peers and instructor to revise the sections of your Research Plan that you submitted as your Track 2 final assessment. Then, you will begin to develop the remaining sections of your Research Plan:

1. Theoretical Implications.
2. Practical Implications.
3. Contribution to Research Theory.
4. Instruments.
5. Data Collection Procedures.
6. Data Analysis Procedures.
7. Expected Findings.
8. References.

Go to iGuide and under Learning Resources, select Dissertation Research, Research in Your School, and then download your school’s Research Plan. Make sure to select the Research Plan that is appropriate for your selected methodology. You will be expected to have a minimum of 75 entries in your reference list to support your Research Plan. Remember that 75 entries represent a fraction of the articles you will collect to complete your dissertation. Continue your search of the literature and complete the remaining sections of your research Plan.

**For Psychology Learners only: Complete Milestone 2.**

If you scored between 60 and 69 on your Research Plan final assessment in Unit 10, you may submit your Research plan one time between Tracks 2 and 3 to review for Milestone 2 – Topic Approval. Incorporate the feedback that you received from your peers and instructor. When you complete the revision of your Research Plan, you may submit it for approval.

Follow the instructions in Section 2 and revise your Track 2 Research Plan.

Please state the date that you plan to complete the revision of your Research Plan and submit for Scientific Merit Review. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you scored between 15 and 59, you may submit your Track 2 research Plan to your Track 3 instructor to review for Milestone 2 - Topic Approval. Incorporate the feedback that you received from your peers and instructor to revise your Track 2 Research Plan. You may submit your revised Research Plan when you enter the Track 3 Colloquium Courseroom. In addition to revising your Track 2 Research Plan, begin working on the sections of your Research Plan that you need to complete for Track 3.