

**Cambridge College**  
**School of Education**  
**Department of Educational Leadership**

Dissertation Research Timeline

*Students: use this form to plan and keep track of your dissertation research*

	Anticipated	Actual
<b>Preparation Stage</b>		
1. Setting up your research a. Academic relations (university, department, advisor, peers) b. Personal relations (work-related, home-related)		
2. Focusing your research a. Conducting 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of literature review b. Developing a methodological framework c. Conducting informal pilot study d. Preliminary write up for advisor (prospectus)		
3. Preparing for the dissertation proposal a. Focus methodology b. Focus 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> round of literature review c. Develop necessary research tools and instruments d. Conduct formal pilot study e. Formalize dissertation committee (using updated prospectus) f. Create support networks g. Create a timeline		
4. Submit dissertation proposal (and IRB)		
<b>Research Stage</b>		
5. Data collection		
6. Ongoing research and support a. 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> round of literature review b. Participate in support networks		
7. Data analysis a. Additional data collection if recursive design		
8. Write 1 <sup>st</sup> draft of dissertation a. Develop comprehensive table of contents b. Outline and draft chapters c. Contact (if appropriate) committee members who can help with particular issues		
<b>Completion Stage</b>		
9. Write complete draft and submit to advisor for initial approval		
10. Prepare for dissertation defense a. Formalize dissertation defense date with committee and university b. Write final dissertation draft		
11. Defend dissertation		
12. Finish Up a. Write abstract b. Finalize revisions c. Submit final version		