

## **Dissertation in Professional Practice (DiPP)**

The Dissertation-in-Professional Practice process is a formal demonstration of the doctoral candidate's knowledge, skills, scholarship, and dispositions of educational leadership. A "Dissertation in Professional Practice, (DiPP)" demonstrates a doctoral candidate is capable of educational research, critical thinking, theological reflection, and organizational leadership or instruction.

### **Problem of Practice**

Students are encouraged from the beginning of the program to identify a problem of practice as the focus of their dissertation. A problem of practice dissertation describes a challenge in educational practice, empirically investigates the challenge and/or test solution(s) to address the challenge, generates actionable implications, and appropriately communicates these implications to relevant stakeholders.

### **Dissertation Design**

The dissertation should:

- Focus on a problem of practice that is relevant to the student and his/her professional context
- Have direct implications for policy and practice
- Be developed using solid biblical and theological foundations
- Employ an established theoretical framework
- Uphold common standards of high quality (well-written, rigorous and coherent approach to methodology, thorough grounding and bounding, etc.)
- Have a final chapter that outlines how this study helps/informs everyday work of practitioners and a section that makes specific suggestions for improved practices based on the findings of the study

### **Products/Artifacts**

The dissertation must contain appropriate products (artifacts) to support the research proposal. The products must be linked directly to the relevant literature, research design and verifiable method. Suggested products can include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluation Plan
- Funding Proposal
- Policy Brief
- Research Data and Analysis
- Journal article (practitioner or academic)
- Curriculum Design/Curriculum Materials
- White paper/Executive summary

### **Research Options**

The purpose/goal of the DiPP will determine the model or method employed for the research and writing. Dissertations must involve the systematic collection and analysis of data or primary source material. If necessary, appropriate workshops or seminars in quantitative or qualitative research may be included as electives in the Plan of Study. A student must receive approval to pursue relevant coursework not available at NOBTS.