

## Doctoral Project

The Au.D. doctoral project is an independent research study conducted by the student under the supervision of members of the faculty. The project must include a testable research question and hypothesis, review of pertinent literature, and the collection and analysis of data. It is the student's responsibility to locate and recruit subjects and to collect the data, as well as to write the paper. Papers that are based on original data are preferred; however, those based on secondary data sources will also be considered.

1. Students must complete a doctoral project in order to graduate.
2. To enroll in CSAD 501, students must have passed the first-year progress exam, CSAD510.
3. Students must enroll in CSAD 501, 502, 503, 504, and 505 for five consecutive semesters after passing CSAD 510.
4. A student may not register for CSAD 501 unless the following conditions have been met:
  - The readers judge that the proposal, which includes a comprehensive review of the literature and proposed methodology, is sufficiently well-developed.
  - Her/his proposal has been approved by the Doctoral Project Committee no later than the 6th week of the third semester. The proposal must include the introduction (including literature review) and methodology.
  - Written approval of the first reader has been accepted by the Department Chair.
5. No subjects may be recruited until the study has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval should be obtained by the eighth week of the fall semester (year 2). *It is possible for this process to take up to a full academic year.*
  - Supervision: The doctoral project is supervised by a committee of three faculty members in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. The "first reader" is the chair of the committee and the student's primary advisor and editor. The "second reader" and "third reader" evaluate the proposal at the beginning, consult on the development of the paper as necessary, and must approve the final paper.
  - Credit: A student enrolls in one unit of Audiology Doctoral Project each semester he/she works on the project for a total of five units. Students must complete the project before the end of the third year in order to complete degree requirements.

### Selection of a doctoral project advisor

Students must complete the doctoral research project under the direction of a full-time faculty member (tenured or tenure-track) who will serve as the Doctoral Research Project Chair. This agreement is based on the mutual consent of the full-time faculty member and the student in the first year of the program. The doctoral project advisor is not necessarily the student's academic advisor; students are assigned an academic advisor in the first year of the program, but the academic advisor will change to the doctoral project advisor in semester 4. Other full-time faculty members may serve as committee members and as second and third readers. At least two members must be

Sacramento State faculty, and at least one member must be tenured or tenure-track in the program. The Au.D. Program Director may approve the replacement of one or more of the committee members based on an evaluation of the rationale provided by the student or a committee member. The Doctoral Research Project Committee Form will be completed in the CSAD 501 course.

### Selection of a topic

Students may choose to develop an original question, assist faculty with their studies, analyze secondary data, or complete a review (e.g., chart review, systematized review, etc.). The scope of the question must be narrow enough to be completed within the five-semester sequence.

### Completion of the project

Projects will be presented at the end of the fifth semester (CSAD505) during the Au.D. program symposium on campus. In CSAD 505, students will attend the OGS workshop on the thesis/project/dissertation, as well as an individual appointment at the end of the semester on formatting. Throughout the CSAD 504 and 505 courses, students will submit periodic writing updates to their committee and are required to respond to and address feedback throughout the writing process. The PowerPoint presented at the symposium must also be approved by the faculty prior to the symposium date. A template will be provided for the presentation.

### Presentation of the project

Students will present their doctoral research projects in a symposium. The first part of the symposium will be 20-minute presentations (15-17 minutes of presentation, 3-5 minutes of questions from the committee). Students in the first and second years are required to attend these presentations. Fourth-year students may attend if they are able to.