Review of Literature

Reviewing literature is an extremely important scholarly skill. It is the key to critically understanding a body of literature. It is in the review of literature that the dots are connected and coherent patterns are identified; equally importantly, this is where weaknesses in a body of literature are identified. Systematic and critical understanding of bodies of literature is a necessary basis for drawing practical conclusions from research and for developing important questions for further research.

The literature review requirement has several purposes:

1. it is intended to precede the literature review for the dissertation and ensure that students have experience with comprehensive reviews before taking on that project,
2. along with introduction of the publishable article and the dissertation, this product is intended to ensure that students have extensive experience with this important form of scholarship,
3. it is intended to provide an additional publication for students so that upon (or shortly after) graduation, their record of scholarship shows at least one published literature review,
4. it is intended to provide students with an additional content area in which they are well versed, broadening their scholarly expertise.

Some Guidelines

- The literature review should be of publishable scope and quality, and be submitted for publication if such papers are typically published in the student's discipline.
- The literature review used to meet this requirement cannot be the same as the literature review for the dissertation; nor can it be the same as the article used to meet the publication requirement.
- The literature review and article for publication may occur in either order or concurrently.
- The literature review may be a collaborative project; however, the student's contribution must merit first authorship.
- Multiple types of literature reviews including meta-analyses, evidence-based practice reviews, and narrative reviews are acceptable. The style of review should be matched to the nature of the literature and the purposes of the review.
- It is expected that students will complete the literature review by the end of their second year of full-time study.

Evaluation

The process for evaluation and approval of the article is as follows:

1. Students send their manuscripts to all members of their advisory committees and inform them that they are submitting the manuscript to fulfill the comprehensive exam requirement of a literature review.

1) Submit a copy of the completed form to Disability Disciplines administrative assistant.
2) Place original form in doctoral student portfolio.

2. The student's advisor and at least one other committee member (appointed by the student's advisor) read and evaluate the manuscript. Any additional committee member who wishes to evaluate the manuscript may do so. All readers send their decisions and comments to the advisor within two weeks of receiving the manuscript. If additional committee members submit comments the advisor compiles the individual readers' decisions and sends them to all committee members.

3. If all readers' decisions agree, that decision will stand. If there are irresolvable disagreements among readers, the entire committee will read the manuscript and meet with the student. Questions may be put to the student. The student should not be present for final discussion and decision making. The decision will be made by a majority vote of the committee. The committee may require revisions in the manuscript. Generally, the student's advisor supervises and approves the revision process and reports its completion to the advisory committee.

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Disability Disciplines
Doctoral Competency Approval Form:

Literature Review--SPED 7040

Student:	Date:

Title of Review:

Approval:

Name	Signature	Date Approved
Advisor		
Member (Designated Evaluator)		
Member (if required)		
Member (if required)		
Member (if required)		

Comments:

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