Doctoral Student Discussion Forums

I. Forum for Students in the Humanities

Forum panelists: Dr. Michael Ellis, Dr. Glyne Griffith, Dr. Richard Hamm, & Dr. Lotfi Sayahi

Session 1: Everything You Need to Know Before Starting Your Dissertation

The panelists will share their perspectives on:

- Starting a PhD: What do you need to know for your first year? How doctoral study differs from previous academic pursuits?
- Moving from course focus to research focus and preparation for your qualifying exam
- Choosing a dissertation topic
- Forming a dissertation committee (picking a committee chair, working with a committee)
- Survival skills: how to deal with setbacks, time management, and building a support system

When: Monday, Feb. 15, 1:00 - 2:30pm (Networking begins at 12:45pm)

Where: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor

Session 2: Strategies for Completing Your Dissertation

The panelists will provide strategies for:

- Writing and defending the dissertation proposal
- Completing components of your dissertation
- Preparing for and defending your dissertation
- Dealing with setbacks, time management, and building a support system

When: Monday, Feb. 29, 1:00 - 2:30pm (Networking begins at 12:45pm)

Where: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor

For each session, the panelists will address each topic during the first hour. Then, there is a 2-minute reflection exercise for the student participants, followed by a round table discussion.

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, please complete the RSVP form.
II. Forum for Students in the Sciences/STEM

Forum panelists: Dr. Melinda Larsen, Dr. Igor Lednev, Dr. Louise-Anne McNutt, Dr. Christopher Thorncroft, & Dr. Christine Wagner

Session 1: Navigating Your Early PhD Career

In this session, the panelists will share their perspectives on:

- Starting a PhD: What do you need to know for your first year? How doctoral study differs from previous academic pursuits?
- Moving from course focus to research focus
- Choosing a dissertation topic and beginning your dissertation
- Forming a dissertation committee (picking a committee chair and working with a committee)
- Finding resources for dissertation structure
- How to deal with setbacks, time management, and building a support system

When: Wednesday, Feb. 17, 3:00 - 4:30pm (Networking begins at 2:45pm)
Where: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor

Session 2: Managing Your Mid to Late PhD Career

The panel will provide strategies for:

- Developing your academic identity
- Writing and defending the dissertation proposal
- Completing components of your dissertation
- Preparing for and defending your dissertation
- Creating your career path beyond your dissertation

When: Friday, Feb. 19, 3:00 - 4:30pm (Networking begins at 2:45pm.)
Where: Cobb Room, University Library, Basement Level

For each session, the panelists will address each topic during the first hour. Then, there is a 2-minute reflection exercise for the student participants, followed by a round table discussion.

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, please complete the RSVP form.
III. Forum for Students in the Social Sciences

Forum panelists: Dr. Sue Faerman, Dr. Myrna Friedlander, Dr. Katherine Trent, & Dr. Alan Wagner

Session 1: Choosing a Dissertation Topic

In this session, the panelists will share their perspectives on:

- Moving from course focus to research focus
- Choosing a dissertation topic
- Forming a dissertation committee (picking a committee chair, working with a committee)

When: Monday, Feb. 29, 3:00 - 4:30pm (Networking begins at 2:45pm.)
Where: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor

Session 2: Strategies for Completing Your Dissertation

The panel will provide strategies for:

- Dealing with setbacks
- Time management
- Building a support system

When: Monday, Mar. 7, 3:00 - 4:30pm (Networking begins at 2:45pm.)
Where: Standish Room, Science Library, 3rd Floor

For each session, the panelists will address each topic during the first hour. Then, there is a 2-minute reflection exercise for the student participants, followed by a round table discussion.

If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, please complete the RSVP form.