

Appendix BB. Sample Road Map of Findings

Finding 1

The overwhelming majority of participants (19 of 20 [95%]) indicated that the course work did not prepare them to conduct research and write their dissertations.

- Course work overall didn't sufficiently prepare students to conduct research.
- Disjuncture between the research courses and the practical realities of the research process.

Finding 2

All 20 participants (100%) expressed the need to know the *content* and understand the *process* involved in conducting research and writing their dissertations.

Knowledge of content (11 [55%])

- Difficulty in selection of researchable problem (3 [15%])
- Difficulty in developing and completing proposal (4 [20%])

Understanding of process (12 [60%])

- Challenges involved in conducting research at various stages of the process (5 [25%])
- Need to be assertive (2 [20%])

Finding 3

The majority of participants (15 of 20 [75%]) attempted to learn what they needed to know by reaching out in dialogue with colleagues, rather than through more formal means.

- Reaching out to other students and colleagues (10 [50%])
- Self-directed learning; researching and reading (6 [30%])
- Post-course work dissertation seminars (5 [25%])
- Advisors (4 [20%])
- Course work (1 [5%])
- Outside expert help (1 [5%])

Finding 4

The majority of participants (15 of 20 [75%]) indicated that they relied on themselves to facilitate their progress. More than half of these same participants (8 of 20 [40%]) also said colleagues were instrumental in helping them.

- Personal characteristics: self-reliance, persistence, faith in self (15 [75%])
- Reached for colleagues (8 [40%])
- Help from other faculty members (3 [15%]) and advisor (2 [10%])

Finding 5

The majority of participants (14 of 20 [70%]) cited lack of good, timely, and consistent advisement as a major barrier standing in the way of their progress.

Structural impediments

- Advisement (14 [70%])
- Lack of faculty and administrative support (5 [25%])
- Rigidity of the process itself (3 [15%])

Personal impediments

- Professional work demands (10 [50%])
- Personal and family issues (6 [30%])
- Financial constraints (5 [25%])
- Lack of confidence in ability (5 [25%])