Enhance your academic and professional skillsets

The Dissertation Working Groups (DWGs) are small discipline-focused groups of 6 – 8 advanced doctoral candidates at the post-data collection stage. The three groups will be separated by discipline as follows: Social Science, Humanities, and Sciences, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM). The groups will use multiple writing strategies concentrating on moving each individual student’s writing process forward towards completion of the dissertation. Each group will be moderated by a writing professional who is experienced and well-qualified to work with advanced doctoral candidates. Participants will develop the following areas:

- Conceptualization of dissertation-related ideas
- Communicating the interpretation of the existing data & analysis
- Hands on experience with writing and editing of the dissertation
- Participants will become eligible to receive up to a $500 supplemental research/conference travel award

Participants will receive personalized attention and feedback from the moderators as well as support and input from their colleagues in the small group format.

It is important to note that these working groups do not supersede the feedback and direction of your dissertation chair and committee. These groups are also not forums to decide on types of data collection strategies or analysis methods.
PROGRAM DATES & STRUCTURE

Social Science DWG, Option A: For advanced doctoral candidates from the social sciences & related interdisciplinary studies, sessions will take place approximately every two weeks on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the University Park Campus. The option A DWG will meet on the following dates: 2/25/2014, 3/11/2014, 3/25/2014, 4/8/2014, 4/22/2014, and ends on 5/6/2014.

Humanities DWG, Option B: For advanced doctoral candidates from the humanities & related interdisciplinary studies, sessions will take place approximately every two weeks on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the University Park Campus. The option B DWG will meet on the following dates: 2/26/2014, 3/12/2014, 3/26/2014, 4/9/2014, and ends on 4/23/2014.

STEM DWG, Option C: For advanced doctoral candidates from the natural and physical sciences, health sciences, engineering, mathematics, & related interdisciplinary fields, sessions will take place approximately every two weeks on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the University Park Campus. The option C DWG will meet on the following dates: 3/7/2014, 3/21/2014, 4/4/2014, 4/18/2014, and ends on 4/25/2014.

ELIGIBILITY

The program is open to all USC advanced doctoral candidates at the post-data collection stage. Selected candidates are expected to participate in all scheduled sessions. Candidates that have not participated in USC Graduate School-sponsored scholarly/professional development institutes are highly encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY

Step One: Complete the online application: http://bit.ly/19dyhOj. Please note that the online application deadline is Wednesday, January 23rd, 2014 at 11:59 p.m.

Step Two: Submit the following supplementary materials: (1) Brief Statement of support from faculty advisor (one paragraph to no more than one page); & (2) Brief Statement from department chair endorsing participation (one to two sentences).

If formatting issues occur with the online application, you may submit an additional set of supplementary materials via email, including: (1) Essay describing your writing process, writing hurdles, and how you will benefit, as an advanced doctoral candidate and future scholar from the Academic Professional Development Program Dissertation Writing Group (no more than three pages); (2) Writing Goal Statement—list your short-term & long-term goals that you would like to accomplish as a member of the DWG Cohort; (3) Dissertation Abstract; (4) Writing Sample that illustrates your aforementioned dissertation topic and writing style; (5) CV/Résumé.

Recommendation statements can be included with the supplementary application materials or submitted separately to the APD program by advisors and chairs.

*** Note: If necessary, statements of support from faculty and department chairs can be submitted after the due date. Please do not let these items holdup the submission of your online application and supplementary materials.

Submit the supplementary application materials via email (uscapdev@usc.edu) or return to the USC Graduate School, Diversity & Academic Professional Development, GFS 315T, Los Angeles, CA 90089. You may also fax your materials to (213) 740-9048.

DUE DATE

Wednesday, January 23rd, 2014 at 11:59 p.m. Acceptance notifications will begin being sent by Thursday, January 24th, 2014.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GRADUATE PROFESSIONALIZATION

Website: http://www.usc.edu/schools/GraduateSchool/ Email: uscapdev@usc.edu Telephone: (213) 740-3429

For questions, contact the USC Graduate School, Diversity Outreach & Academic Professional Development: David H. Herman, Ph.D. Candidate & Program Advisor/Coordinator; Dr. Jesse S. Watson, Associate Director; Dr. Richard Andalon, Associate Dean & Director