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Practitioner Research PhD

In terms of Section 22, sub section (2) of the Martin Luther Christian University Act 2005, read with Statute 6.3.1 of the Martin Luther Christian University Statutes and Rules 2016, and as recommended and approved by the Board of Governors meetings held on September 25, 2023, the Practitioner Research PhD Policy is hereby notified

The National Education Policy 2020 lays emphasis on practitioner skills as preparation for a career. One example of this priority is the UGC provision for the appointment of professors of practice in universities. The NEP also recommends the incorporation of critical thinking, multidisciplinary approach, research and innovation in the preparation of professionals:

NEP 20.1. Preparation of professionals must involve an education in the ethic and importance of public purpose, an education in the discipline, and an education for practice. It must centrally involve critical and interdisciplinary thinking, discussion, debate, research, and innovation.

The practitioner research doctoral degree is intended to prepare graduates for careers that apply scientific knowledge of a discipline and deliver empirically based service to individuals, groups and organizations. It provides advanced training in the scientific practice of a profession with a commitment to evidence-based practice. In disciplines and professions that come under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021, this program will provide the accrual of hours towards the eligibility required for registration with the central or state councils. Bringing these concepts together, a practitioner-based approach to doctoral research has been accordingly designed. It will have the following components:

1. Course work

Apart from the general course work, the candidate may be required to take additional course work as appropriate to the discipline (s) and project, as prescribed by the Doctoral Committee and/or the Research Supervisor

2. Practice

The candidate will be engaged in professional practice of a high level under the guidance of a qualified professional, as may be approved by the Doctoral Committee and/or the Research Supervisor. A required number of hours may be prescribed. A logbook will be maintained which will be signed periodically by the guiding professional and the Research Supervisor. In addition, the candidate will maintain a reflective journal to critique and improve his/her practice and provide inputs for the research project.

3. Research project

The research project will be based on suitable research hypothesis(es) and question(s) that will be pursued in the practice setting. The objectives will be framed and the research design formulated in such a manner as to be pursuable in the practice milieu. For example, the practice environment may provide a cohort of subjects/participants or in-depth case studies.

Composition of the portfolio

Upon completion of the practitioner research PhD, the candidate will have a portfolio of course work, a practicum logbook, and a research thesis. As an indicative example, the hours completed may include course work of 180-300 hours (12-20 credits), and practicum/field work of 1600-2000 hours. Self-study, research analysis and writing hours are not included

PhD by Portfolio

A thesis by portfolio may be particularly suitable for certain disciplines such as education in which two or more elements may be included such as a new curriculum or curriculum design, teaching-learning resource material, evaluation plan, professional development design, policy brief, funding proposal or a publishable manuscript. These elements may have audio or video components. In other disciplines such as management studies, the portfolio may be made up of two or more case studies. In computer sciences, the portfolio may include software programs or digitized learning or other products. The portfolio may include related or unrelated pieces.



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