

## SUMMIT Research Exercise

### **Purpose**

Doctoral education is about becoming an academic thought leader. Training in research is key in preparing for an academic career. Through systematic investigation, academics advance knowledge about a specific subject by discovering new facts or by revising known facts, theories, applications, etc.

In this exercise, you will learn about the research that some of the doctoral students are doing. By working with doctoral students, you will learn about the research process, focusing on (1) the formulation of a research question and the development of a hypothesis; (2) research design/methodology and data; (3) problems in the research model; and (4) results. Moreover, you should be able to think about next steps which might include additional research questions for further study.

### **Part I**

Four doctoral students will present their research to you, and you will observe all of their presentations. Doctoral students will have 10 minutes each to introduce themselves and present their research. Their research will be given in a “5-in-5” format—five slides in five minutes. This format helps develop presentation skills because it forces to students to summarize key points about their research within a specified time period. There is no question-answer period after the presentations, and you will not be assigned to a doctoral student’s group until after all presentations are complete, so pay close attention to all of them.

### **Part II**

Once you are assigned to a doctoral student in a group with other Summit scholars, you will go to your assigned classroom. There, your role is to ask the doctoral student about the research and to create 5 slides of your own which you will present to the whole group. (This is 5 slides for each group, not 5 slides per person.) Some questions you might consider asking are listed below. However, you are free to ask any questions.

Doctoral students will answer your questions, but may also help you formulate other questions. Doctoral students will also provide oversight to you in organizing your slides.

### **Organization of Your Presentation**

- **You must present at least one slide on your own.**
- You should figure out as a group how to present the fifth slide (as well as the fourth if your group has three people in it). One person, more than one person, or the entire group can present together for the final slide(s).
- Whoever presents the first slide is the person who should include a brief overview of their doctoral student’s research (title of research, name of doctoral student, and the area that that doctoral student works in).

- Slides 1-4 should include what you have learned by asking your doctoral student questions from the categories below.
- Slide 5 should introduce new research question (or questions) or idea(s) decided on by your group. These slides should include next steps for your research questions/ideas. (You can discuss hypothesis, application, research design, potential challenges, and results.)
- Keep in mind that the final slide (“Next Steps”) will take the most time to complete as a group.
- Your presentation should be about 15 minutes long (about 3 minutes per slide). Allow about 5 minutes after your presentation for questions from other SUMMIT scholars and the faculty advisor who will join us.
- **20 MINUTES** is the total time for presentations including Q and A.

### **Order of Presentation and Suggested Questions for Your Doctoral Student**

1. Research Question – The research question is the guide and center of a study and must be clear and focused.  
Hypothesis – An educated guess, but, more formally, predictions about the nature and direction of the relationship between two variables. It should give insight into the research question and be measurable through experiments.
  - What is your research question? How would you restate it for someone outside of your area of study?
  - How did you come up with this idea?
  - Did reviewing the literature or data change your focus/research question?
  - Why does this research question interest you?
  - What gap does this research fill in your field?
  - What is your hypothesis?
2. Research Design/Methodology/Data
  - Describe your research design.
  - In what way will the methodology test your hypothesis?
  - Did you consider other methods? Why did you use the method you chose?
  - How did you know what data to use?
  - Are there other resources for the data you need?
  - How do you know if your results are reliable?
3. Problems
  - Were there gaps in your data? Were you able to explain the data you have?
  - What happens if you can’t explain some of your data?
  - Did you have any obstacles in this research? If so, what are they?

- Were there costs associated with your study? Where did you get the funding?
- How do you get feedback on your research?
- What are some of the concerns you have about this study?
- What is some of the criticism you received?

#### 4. Results

- Is this study finished? How long have you been working on this study?
- If so, what are some of your results? If not, what can you share about preliminary results?
- What is the goal of this study? (part of dissertation, publication, conference presentation?)
- If you plan to publish this, where will you submit this?
- What are other journals that might be appropriate?
- If planning to present this at a conference, what conference?
- What is the ultimate application or use of this research?
- Why do think this research is important?

#### 5. Next Steps (Directions to SUMMIT Scholars)

- Based on your discussion as a group, present a new, related research question. If helpful, use questions from the previous categories (Research Question, Research Design, Problems, Results) to develop the next steps of the group's research question or idea.
- Slides can be presented as a group or a representative(s) from the group can present the next steps.