Walden University KAM & Dissertation Brief – July/August 2018

Updated Dissertation/Research Forum Course and the Weekly Term Plan | In response to student and faculty suggestions and after examining data regarding doctoral student capstone milestones, some very exciting updates have been made to the dissertation/research forum course shell and the Term Plan (formerly called the quarter plan) to improve doctoral student progress and program completion.

As the fall 2018 term/quarter begins, you will see the new course, which has an updated look and feel. The course is organized by milestones, which include the prospectus, proposal, and dissertation. Resources are also provided by milestone so that it will be easier for you to find what you need at each stage of your work. This new format will support more efficient progress toward completing the capstone/dissertation.

*Note. For students still writing KAMs, there is a link in the course to the KAM Website—this is where all KAM resources are housed (e.g., curriculum guides, guidebooks, policies, rubrics, etc.). All students will use the updated, weekly term plan form in the new course, however.

In the updated dissertation course, there will be 3 assignments each term. All assignments relate to planning (11-Week Term Plan completion/submissions) and progress (achieving the agreed-upon goal(s) for the term).

Students and Mentors/Chairs Collaborate on:

1. Completing the Initial Term Plan Form | Term Plan Negotiation & Commitment
   a. Set realistic, SMART goal(s) for the term—appropriate for the individual student
   b. Determine needed weekly tasks toward term goal(s)—as appropriate for the individual student
   c. Establish a communication plan for the term (may include phone, Skype, email, discussions, blogs, or Bb Collaborate)
2. Completing the Midterm Progress Check | Term Plan Recommitment
3. Completing the Final Term Plan Submission | Adequate Progress Final Review

For additional student information, the course includes an introductory video for students on the course homepage and a Welcome and Overview PPT (job aid) in the course under “Course Overview”. For faculty, a faculty Job Aid is in the “Instructor Notes”.

Important Links for KAM and Dissertation Completion

Learning Agreement (LA) & Knowledge Area Module (KAM) Processes and Documents

Doctoral Capstone Resources Site

PhD Dissertation Process and Documents