

GHANA COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS



RESEARCH PROJECT GUIDELINES

The research work for Membership Residents of the Fellowship program forms a major part of the whole program. A good research work, properly planned, conducted, presented and defended, allows for the development of the following skills and competencies in the researcher:

- Ability to undertake independent scientific work with minimal supervision
- Initiative
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- An enquiring mind
- Data management skills
- An in-depth knowledge or special competency in the specific research area or field of study.

CHOOSING THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The College requires that a chosen research topic should aim at adding to the existing body of knowledge to improve the quality-of-service delivery. As much as possible, the topic should be practice-based. Discussions with prospective supervisors are intended to assist the student to clarify the research topic and bring his ideas into a sharper focus of what he wants to do and how best to go about it to achieve set goals.

PREPARATORY WORK

Involves extensive literature review or search to learn about what has been done in the particular area. The literature review will also provide all the background information and principles used in this area of study. Based on the literature review some important questions may arise that will

inform about the research methodology to use, questionnaire design, timing and the duration of the study.

OUTLINE OF DISSERTATION

Title Page

- Title
- Name and index number of candidate
- Project Title
- Faculty
- Declaration Abstract:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables/ Figures

Abbreviations

CHAPTER 1:

- Background of study/Introduction
- Problem Statement
- Research Questions
- Main Objective and specific objectives
- Justification

CHAPTER 2:

- Literature Review

CHAPTER 3:

- Methods
- Study Area

- Study Design
- Study Population
- Sample Size Calculation
- Sampling
- Data Collection Methods Tools and Techniques
- Data Management and Analysis Ethical Issues

DATA QUALITY ISSUES CHAPTER 4:

- Results

CHAPTER 5

- Discussions

CHAPTER 6

- Recommendations and Conclusion

Reference

Appendix:

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

Number of pages:

- 40- 60 pages

Paper:

- 21cm x 29.7cm sheets (i.e., A4).
- White Bond paper.

Print:

Times New Roman, font size 12.

Type of Copies:

- A typed, computer-printed copy is acceptable.
- The copy must be of excellent quality on the bond paper.
- Print on **one** side of the page only.

Page Format:

Spacing

- Double space preliminary pages, text and appendices.
- Single-space all tables, footnotes, endnotes, references, bibliographic material.
- Quotations of four or more lines of prose should be single-spaced and indented five spaces from the left margin. No indentation on right.

Margins

- Left margins must be 1 and 1/2" inches.
- Top, right, bottom margins must be 1 inch.

Numbering (as already outlined)

- Preliminary pages: lowercase Roman numerals. centered 1 inch from the bottom of the page.
- Text: Numeric, centred, exactly 1 inch from the bottom of the page and begin with the number one (1) on the first page of text under the Introduction section.

Graphs, figures, tables, boxes, charts, maps, and photographs must be suitably sharp and within standard margins for binding.

Citations: Insert citations with appropriate software (Mendeley, Endnote etc.)

References: APA referencing style

Appendices: All appendices must be numbered and must have appropriate titles

Colour of research project report cover (for examination): Blue (spiral bound)

Colour of Project Report cover after dissertation examination: Black (hard cover)

DELIVERABLES

There are two (2) deliverables:

- 1) Three spiral -bounded dissertation reports; and
- 2) Electronic copy of the report. Send email to: info@gcpharm.edu.gh

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Abstract (1 page):

The abstract represents a concise but holistic overview of the entire project, highlighting the key elements of all the various components. The abstract must be written based on the IMRAD approach.

Introduction:

The introduction must highlight the background of the study, the problem under investigation, the objectives and the study justification.

Literature Review:

This section must present what is known about the subject matter including consistency and inconsistency in findings from other studies, as well as the gaps in current knowledge. The literature review must include a conceptual frame work of the research project.

Methods:

Replicability of results is the heart of science. The methods section should provide a detailed exposition of the research design and data analyses. A reader of the methods section should be able to repeat the study and to validate the findings.

Results:

Results should first be summarized in texts (sentences) while the details are presented in Tables and Figures. Duplication of results is not permitted.

Discussion:

The purpose of discussion is not to rehash the results. Discussion should interpret the results, compare with other studies, and give the implications of the findings. Furthermore, discussion should indicate direction for future research or unanswered questions, and the limitations of the study.

Conclusion:

Conclusions should be based on the objectives of the study. Recommendations, if at all necessary, should be based on the work and not the political or professional aspirations of the author.