

TOOL



BOUNDARIES OF SUPERVISION WORKSHEET

Instructions for use

This worksheet is designed for use by dissertation coordinators in conjunction with new supervisors to promote discussion on the desirable level of supervisor involvement in students' dissertation projects. It is expected that the acceptable boundaries of supervision will vary according to the level of the project (e.g., undergraduate students may require higher levels of supervisor involvement than Masters students).

The tool can be used by dissertation coordinators in meetings with groups of new supervisors (to ensure consistency across supervisors) or with individual supervisors.

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Source: <http://www.dissertationsupervision.org/>



BOUNDARIES OF SUPERVISION WORKSHEET

Where are the appropriate boundaries for supervision of students in this program?

Process	"Hands off" approach	Low Involvement	Medium Involvement	High Involvement
Selecting Topic	Sole responsibility of student	Student provides ideas which supervisor helps assess for suitability	Negotiated by supervisor and student	Provided by supervisor
Literature Searching	Sole responsibility of student	Supervisor provides starting papers only	Supervisor provides starting papers and ongoing suggestions when needed	Supervisor provides papers to review
Literature Reviewing	Sole responsibility of student	Supervisor comments on X draft(s) of literature review	Supervisor provides training/advice/examples and comments on draft(s) of literature review	Supervisor co-writes with student
Research Question and Hypotheses	Sole responsibility of student	Student has 'first go' and then supervisor helps shape	Supervisor and student develop together	Supervisor provides hypotheses
Selecting Methodological Approach	Sole responsibility of student	Student researches possible approaches and discusses recommended approach with supervisor	Supervisor and student decide together	Supervisor advises correct approach to use
Collecting Data	Sole responsibility of student	Supervisor provides training/advice on collecting data	Supervisor provides training/advice on collecting data and assists with recruitment	Supervisor actively involved in recruitment and data collection with student
Analysing Data	Sole responsibility of student	Supervisor provides training/advice but does not work directly on student's data	Supervisor sits with student while they conduct analyses	Supervisor conducts part/all of analysis
Interpreting results	Sole responsibility of student	Student provides supervisor with an interpretation of the results, which the supervisor then comments on	Student and supervisor discuss together possible interpretations of results	Supervisor tells student what results mean
Writing the Dissertation	Sole responsibility of student	Supervisor comments on X draft(s) of dissertation	Supervisor provides training/advice/examples of writing and comments on draft(s) of dissertation	Supervisor co-writes with student