Doctoral Program Policy on Acceptable Use of Editors, Tutors, and Coaches for Coursework and Dissertations

Effective immediately

All of the scholarly work produced as part of a student’s coursework and dissertation-related work in the doctoral program must be original. Allowable assistance to the student is limited to receiving editorial-type help with course papers and dissertations, and tutorial lessons on research methodology and/or statistics. For example, acceptable assistance includes help with APA formatting, grammatical structuring of sentences, proof-reading for spelling and typographical errors, and similar types of general editing. However, a student is forbidden from hiring professional tutors or coaches to actually perform original work. Examples of unethical assistance would include having a tutor or coach write an original narrative in a student’s paper or dissertation. While a tutor or coach can offer a lesson to the student on methodology or statistical procedures, he/she cannot perform analyses on the data and/or then write up the results or conclusions. Moreover, a tutor or coach cannot conduct any or all of literature review for the student, or write up a section or chapter summarizing or synthesizing literature.

Any violations of this policy, in addition to any violations of the college’s policy against plagiarism or unethical academic behavior, will result in a failing grade for the assignment, failure of the course, or expulsion from the program.

Sincerely,
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