Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree of
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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Collaborative Online Education: A Case Study of an Ed.D. Program

Date: November 8, 2021
Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract
This case study discusses the collaborative teaching and learning model of online courses in US higher education. Based on the co-teaching model proposed by Friend and Cook (1996) and the online collaborative learning theory proposed by Harasim (1983), researchers focused on four overarching research questions: 1. How do instructors design online courses with the aim of facilitating instruction using the collaborative teaching and learning model?, 2. When instructors are co-teaching online, how do they use the collaborative teaching and learning model?, 3. How do students build online learning communities when learning experiences emanate from the collaborative teaching and learning model?, 4. How do instructors and students evaluate the online collaborative teaching and learning model?. A Midwestern University's Ed.D. program serves as a case study for investigating this phenomenon. The participants are members of a Ed.D cohort (4 instructors and 7 students) who have taught or taken online courses strongly influenced by collaborative approaches to teaching and learning. Researchers used interviews, questionnaires, document analysis, observation and field notes to collect data. The data analysis and discussion summarize and problematize the perspectives of instructors and students and discuss possible directions to improve the design and implementation of collaborative approaches to online education.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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