Preprospectus Template
EdD Degree – Higher Education and P-12 Leadership

Sections to Cover:

**Introduction** - This should be a general overview of issues and a general introduction to the topic. Think of this as an inverted triangle where you start broadly and gradually go into more detail. Provide a framework for your and how you plan to explore your topic. You should try to create reader interest in your topic. The introduction section should show the reader why your topic is a contemporary issue in educational leadership.

**Background** – This section should explore the current literature on your topic. The idea here is to present some of the foundational work/theories as it pertains to your research idea. You don’t need to go into all the details of your literature review. Instead, you should be covering some of the more “big” or major themes as it relates to the literature and your topic. In handling the background literature, you are trying to show the reader that there is a case or argument supporting the idea of your study.

**Statement of the Problem** – This should be easy for the reader to identify after reading the introduction and background sections. This part of your Preprospectus should state – briefly and directly – what the issues are in your research.

**Purpose of the Study** – What is your purpose? What is it that you hope to accomplish? This section should provide a brief overview of what you expect to learn and gain from doing this research. The purpose of the study section should answer the “So What?” question as it pertains to your study.

**Significance of the Study** – Why is the study important? What information can this study provide to the literature? Why do you think the study will be useful? Who, how, and why will it be of value in your field?

**Research Questions** – This is where you list the research questions that will direct and influence the direction of your study. For Qualitative studies, you can have a “grand tour” question with a few sub-questions to add focus to your study. For quantitative studies, you can structure this as research questions or as hypotheses. Either way, you want to make sure you indicate and identify the independent and dependent variable(s) for your study.

**Research Design** – Here you briefly state which methodological approach you plan for your study: Quantitative, Qualitative, or Mixed Methods. If you are using the quantitative method, which quantitative design will you be using such as descriptive, experimental (pre and posttest), or causal-comparative design. You should also indicate why you plan on using this design as it relates to your topic. In other words, discuss why this particular quantitative method/design is the best method for answering your research question(s). If you are using the qualitative methodology, which methodology will you be using such as phenomenology, ethnography, narrative inquiry, or case study. Try to explain again why this approach will help you answer your research question(s).
Definition of Terms – There are two types of definitions to include in this section. The first are terms that are field specific that the reader might not understand. The second are terms that have multiple meanings associated with them and you are defining for the reader which definition will be used in your study.

Limitations/Delimitations and Assumptions –

- Limitations – What are the potential weaknesses to the study? What variables might threaten the validity of your study? These are the constructs that are beyond your control.
- Delimitations – These are the constructs that you have controlled to bring focus and specificity to your study. For instance, you study may be delimited to only include principals in the state of Georgia.
- Assumptions – What are some of the assumptions that support your focus of the topic? For instance, the knowledge we have of a particular theory is an accurate representation of that educational reality. Or that your participants are knowledgeable of the topic so that they are valid sources of data.

Chapter Summary – Simply summarize what has been presented in your Preprospectus. Do not introduce anything in this section.

Additional Items: Also include in your Preprospectus: Cover Page, Table of Contents, a project timeline, and relevant reference list.

We would expect that your Preprospectus would range around 20 – 30 pages in length.