In an effort to raise the quality of dissertation research, the ORLD program has set forth the following standards which went into effect July 1, 2008. Dissertation research conducted by ORLD students who have not commenced data collection must satisfy the following criteria:

1. The research topic must deal with leadership, must make a significant contribution to existing leadership theory and research and must yield a publishable paper.

2. Quantitative dissertations must employ multivariate analyses and develop theory derived hypotheses which can be empirically tested and demonstrate the candidate’s understanding of the interplay of leadership theories and methodologies. Univariate analyses such as t-test or correlations are not acceptable.

3. Candidates must collect an original set of quantitative or qualitative data. Secondary data collected by a third party are no longer permissible.

4. Replications of previous studies without significant theoretical and methodological extension are not acceptable. Increasing sample size or collecting data for a study not conducted previously on the Eastern Shore does not qualify as an extension.

5. All Ph. D. candidates and dissertation must demonstrate doctoral level written and oral communication skills.

This document can also be accessed on the ORLD web site.

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