Preparing for your Doctoral Defense

Find Out Meeting Norms

- E.g., food / no food
- Powerpoint / no Powerpoint
- Expected length of presentation
- Agenda for the day

Strategies

- Focus on chapters four and five (findings, implications).
- Canvass your committee beforehand (did they see any problems?).
- Remember no one knows your dissertation as well as you do.
- Remember everyone wants you to graduate.
- Remember that how you answer any question is nearly as important as the content of the answer itself.
  - If you don’t know, say so, and explain why you don’t know (E.g., it’s a direction for future research).

Questions to Expect

- How do you plan to disseminate this work? (where are you going to publish / present)
- What would you do differently if you were going to do this research again?
- What are next steps you think should be taken as a result of this research?
  - What would you tell policymakers / practitioners / administrators / families / students / as a result of your study?
  - What would you do differently in your own practice, as a result of this research?
- What do you plan to do, career-wise, now that you’re finished?

Afterwards

- Expect changes (content and format)
- Leave time before the Graduate College deadline to make those changes
- Celebrate!

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