

California Intercontinental University Doctoral Program Tracks

Doctoral Research Project (DRP)	Dissertation – Graduate Research Course (GRC)
 Applied Research Solve specific problems in everyday context Specific problems of individuals or organizations 	Basic Research
Goal : Solve down-to-earth problems using sound evidence and thinking.	Goal: Expand knowledge without solutions to existing problems.
 Scope: Single case study design focusing on a single organization. Some examples are: Creation of a curriculum Development of a manuscript Seminar with a manual, or workshop with a manual 	Scope : Research focusing on expanding knowledge without providing solutions to practical problems.
Length : May be much less in writing than a dissertation.	Length : 130 - 230 pages of writing depending on chapters and content of the research.
*Note: Applied projects should generally be at least 40-50 pages long and must show your ability to analyze and synthesize information, illustrate appropriate methodology or approach and procedures, and apply this information to a real-world-problem providing assessment and recommendations for an organization.	
Students complete 15 core courses.	Students complete 15 core courses.
Students have higher success rates.	Students often struggle with writing, especially if English is not their first language.
Students can actually utilize the work to solve a real-world problem.	Research leads typically to more research.
The approved and finalized project is not something that needs to be published. DRP does not proceed from a research problem	The approved dissertation has to be reviewed and is often published. The dissertation must add to the field of study or understanding of research.