

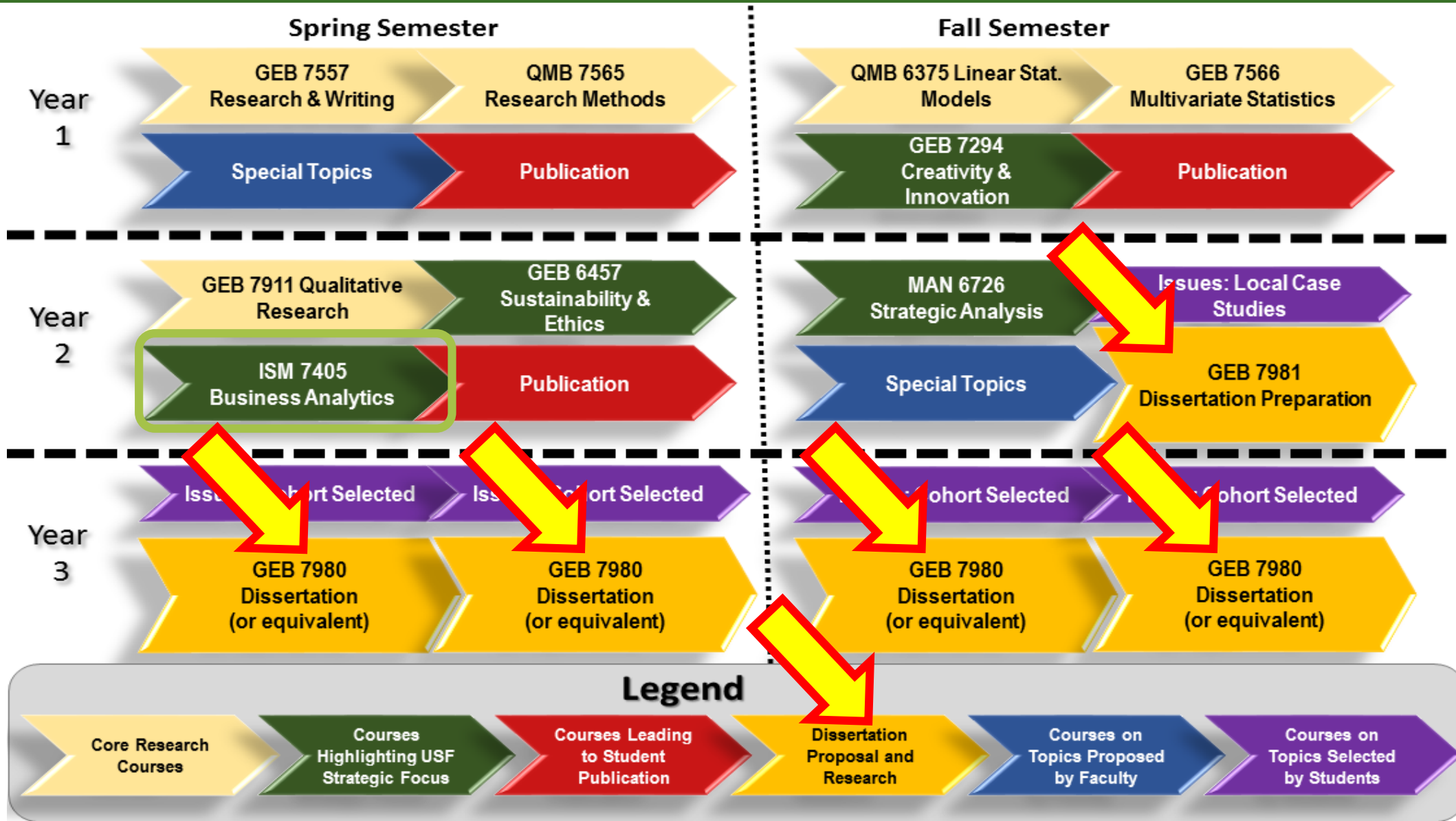
A Team Based Approach to the Dissertation Process

Panel Introduction

From the USF Graduate Course Catalog:

The DBA program offered by the College of Business provides its graduates with the skills needed to conduct rigorous **research** with the objective of **applying** the findings to **real-world decision-making** in industry and government.

Objectives



Design

Real World
Problems

- Interdisciplinary
- Structured

Cohort
Administration

- Lock Step
- Manageable

Dissertation Process Constraints

Student Groups

- Formed at end of 3rd semester
- Based on common interests

Faculty Teams

- Formed early in fall semester
- Survey used to match faculty to groups

Proposal meetings

- End of 4th semester
- Defenses held in DBA offices
- Both faculty and students participate

Dissertation meetings

- 5th & 6th semesters
- Defense occurs when committee satisfied
- Faculty & students participate

Approach

Group 1: Entrepreneurial Small Business, emergence, risk management, strategic planning.

The unifying theme is students whose research focused on how entrepreneurs build businesses. While there are generally two types of entrepreneurs: first, entrepreneurs who have a passion for a new idea. Secondly, and the unifying theme, is business entrepreneurs whose passion in building a sustainable business in a area where they have expertise/experience and they see an opportunities.

Group 1: My fit with the entrepreneurial small business group is as follows:

Poor

Weak

Neutral

Adequate

Strong

Group 2: "Behave Yourself"

Our intent is to examine behaviors across a spectrum of Wall Street, the restaurant industry, sales, leadership, and innovation. The common unifying criteria – methodologies: two quantitative methods, two qualitative (traditional or book) and one mixed methodologies (book). Each group member is invested in the selected topic and committed to completing the dissertation project on the chosen topic.

Group 2: My fit with the "Behave Yourself" group is as follows

Poor

Weak

Neutral

Adequate

Strong

Groups (from Faculty Survey)

Group 3: Artifact and Software

Team formed based on a common, shared research methodology or process model. A number of the team members are designing an artifact, which fall rather naturally under the auspices of Design Science Research as such artifacts may include constructs, models, methods, and instantiations. They might also include social innovations or new properties of technical, social, and/or informational resources; in short, this definition includes any designed object with an embedded solution to an understood research problem.

Group 4: Transformative Books

The consistent theme shared by this team is the need to inform and influence broader industry and society in general. Specifically, we're all challenging socially, academically, and practitioner- accepted practices that go largely unchallenged. A creative take is, "In search of a Bigger R (from ROI)" or perhaps "In search of a Better R." The team wishes to reframe the decision processes behind key financial decisions and business paradigms that will positively contribute to academics and society as a whole.

Group 5: IT and Healthcare

This team is composed of 4 members. Our common subject matter is in the area of healthcare IT. We anticipate each member will produce a traditional dissertation deliverable. A follow-on goal would be to create a book on unifying subjects of our research.

Group Examples Continued

- **Grandon Gill:** Introduction
- **Rob Hammond & Mohammed Ali Hasbini:** Student perspective
- **Jung Park & Chris Pantzalis:** Finance Faculty, offer perspective of serving on committee outside of research discipline
- **Paul Spector:** Faculty from College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, offers faculty perspective from outside the business school
- **Joann Quinn:** Faculty from USF Health, offers perspective CWRU Alumnus serving on a committee

Panelists