Azrieli
Azrieli Graduate School of
Jewish Education and Administration

AZRIELI EdD DISSERTATION OPTIONS

In addition to the coursework, students in the EdD program complete a dissertation using one of the approved options below. All dissertations are supervised by Azrieli faculty and require a scholarly review and synthesis of the relevant literature in the field.

Students are encouraged to join an Azrieli research laboratory early in the program to deepen their knowledge and expertise in a particular area as a precursor to submitting a dissertation proposal. Currently, Azrieli research laboratories include those exploring Hebrew Literacy, Humanities Research in Jewish Education, Psychological Issues, and Teaching and Learning.

Curriculum Design and Development

In addition to the empirical social-science researched dissertations traditionally undertaken at Azrieli, students in the Executive EdD Program are encouraged to consider designing and developing a curriculum in fulfillment of their dissertation requirement.

This curriculum—in an area of Judaic Studies or an integration of Judaic and General Studies— should demonstrate competence in its four foundations: philosophy, history, psychology, and sociology, and familiarity with each of the curricular commonplaces: learning, instruction, milieu, and mastery of the operative subject matter, at the designated grade level.

- If the student wishes to focus on a particular instructional component of a curriculum, then the student must arrange for said curricular unit to be field tested, and incorporate either a quantitative or qualitative research module attesting to its implementation.

Case Study

Case studies describe situations that require administrative decision-making, and may have the following methodological purposes:

- research
- evaluation
- policy study
- teaching

There are commonly three categories into which cases may fall:

1. true cases (no alterations to names of persons or organizations)
2. disguised cases (actual names are not supplied)
3. hypothetical cases (fictitious cases, created to illustrate a principle, concept, or set of conditions)

We will grant some latitude in terms of the size of the proposed case, in light of the fact that it may vary according to its intended purposes.

Action Research

According to the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory:

> "Action research is inquiry or research in the context of focused efforts to improve the quality of an organization and its performance. It typically is designed and conducted by practitioners who analyze the data to improve their own practice. Action research can be done by individuals or by teams of colleagues. The team approach is called ***collaborative inquiry***."

We are open to a joint project, providing the collaborative inquiry is undertaken by colleagues who share either the same institutional/organizational background, or who fulfill identical organizational roles in comparable institutions.

Program Evaluation

Program evaluation is an individual or collaborative attempt to provide data for the assessment of the processes or outcomes of a distinct educational program. It may be formative, and provide data (to staff) for an ongoing program, or summative, and provide data (to funders or regulators) for evaluation of a concluded program.

Either or both quantitative and qualitative methods can be used—as in traditional social science research—although program evaluation tends to be more “client-focused” as researchers work closely with program staff to both obtain the data and implement evaluation.

We are open to a joint project, providing the collaborative inquiry is undertaken by colleagues who share the same institutional/organizational background.