

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the co-authored dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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Master of Education in Secondary Education, University of Missouri- St. Louis, 2014
Bachelor of Science in Education in Secondary Education, University of Missouri- St. Louis, 2008
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The Role of Integrated Curriculum in the 21st Century School

Date: June 27, 2017

Time: 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 1 (TLC-CR1)

Abstract

In schools across the country, there appears to be an increasing focus on 21st Century Skills development. While there may be some variance among specific definitions of these skills by national groups and individual schools, our review of the literature has identified eight common features among widely accepted frameworks: Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, digital literacy, social and cultural skills, and self-regulation. As a result of our coauthored research of the literature, we proposed that the integrated curriculum should be considered an ideal method for the teaching and learning of 21st Century Skills. While neither the collection of skills designated as “21st century” in and of themselves, nor the integrated curriculum are novel ideas in education, there appears to be a gap in related literature studying the complementary relationship of the two. We conducted surveys to measure frequency of practices associated with the integrated curriculum and teacher attitudes related to 21st Century Skills. We also interviewed teachers to identify practices and attitudes, providing data for mixed-methods analysis. From our analysis, we identified an interrelationship between the integrated curriculum and the teaching of 21st Century Skills as well as barriers to best practice.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris, Chair

Dr. Charles Granger

Dr. Kim Song

Dr. Gayle Wilkinson