**DOCTOR OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE (DCS)**

**DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

**PIEDMONT-APPALACHIAN COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE**

The Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree (DCS) requires completion of the Bachelor of Commissioner Science [BCS] Degree and the Master of Commissioner Science [MCS] Degree from any College of Commissioner Science. The Candidate for Doctor of Commissioner Science [CDCS] Certificate must be earned from the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science (PACCS) if the candidate wishes to earn the Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree from PACCS.

**CANDIDATE FOR DOCTOR OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE (CDCS) CERTIFICATE Requirements:**

1. Attend a minimum of three (including the CDCS) annual sessions of a College of

Commissioner Science.

2. Hold the Master of Commissioner Science (MCS) Degree.

3. Be an active, registered BSA adult leader with at least one year of service since receiving the

MCS degree.

4. Satisfactorily complete the CDCS coursework.

5. Select a suitable research study or project topic for approval by the PACCS Doctoral

Candidate Review Board.

**DOCTOR OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE (DCS) DEGREE Requirements:**

1. Hold the Candidate for Doctor of Commissioner Science (CDCS) certificate **from PACCS**.

2. Be an active, registered BSA adult leader with at least one year of service since receiving the

CDCS certificate.

3. After completing the CDCS Certificate:

a. Identify a Scouting problem in your Unit, District, Council, or National organization

or program.

b. Determine how a Commissioner can solve, impact, or reduce this problem.

c. Do a research study or action project that deals with the problem. Use the Guidelines

on the following pages.

d. Present a written report (see guidelines below) describing your research or project.

e. If the written report is not completed and accepted within four years of last

completing the CDCS class, the candidate must retake the CDCS class. The

PACCS Doctoral Candidate Review Board reserves the right to require all

candidates to retake all or a portion of the CDCS class should requirements for

the research and/or written dissertation change since the candidate last took the

class.

4. Serve on the Staff of the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science before

receiving your Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree.

5. The final requirement for graduation is a 5-minute presentation on your research at the

Saturday night campfire program.

Doctoral neckerchiefs, slides and certificates will be presented at graduation ceremonies on Sunday morning following the worship service. You should make all necessary effort to **attend the entire weekend of PACCS the year you plan to graduate.**

**WRITTEN REPORT (DISSERTATION) GUIDELINES**

STUDY RESEARCH GUIDELINES:

In order for the Doctoral paper to show evidence of thoughtful study selection, careful research, and adequate development, your study must contain the following elements:

1. Study Statement and Problem Definition

a. You will select a research topic by the end of the CDCS course.

b. The PACCS Doctoral Candidate Review Board will handle initial topic approval and consideration of duplicate ideas. A member of the Doctoral Candidate Review Board will be appointed as your advisor by the Chairman of the Doctoral Candidate Review Board.

c. You will apply for final topic approval from your advisor by **September 1** following

the end of your CDCS course.

d. Your application for topic approval will include:

i. Your name, Council, and District, and dates of Commissioner College

attendance.

ii. Title of project.

iii. Study statement about the problem.

iv. Problem definition or defense of your study.

2. Study Statement Criteria

a. Briefly describe the problem you have identified.

b. State your concept for solution of the problem. Your study may:

i. Explain why some Scouting organization or activity works, does not work, or

how it can be improved.

ii. Develop some concept or theory that would help other Commissioners.

c. Briefly outline how you will research your problem.

3. Research

a. To develop and explain your study or project you must collect and analyze facts

and/or viewpoints.

b. These facts may come from books, pamphlets, magazine articles, speeches, or other

sources of ideas and information. Use sources beyond BSA literature.

c. Facts may come from surveys, questionnaires, or interviews of knowledgeable people

or those with opinions about your topic.

4. Outline

a. A one-page outline of your research must be sent to your advisor by **October 15**

following the end of your CDCS course. This outline deadline encourages you not

to wait to start on your research and provides an opportunity for your advisor to

provide assistance to you.

5. Written Report

a. This is a report of your research. The fully edited, final paper is due by **May 15** before

the Commissioner College session when you expect to receive your Doctor of

Commissioner Science degree.

b. This report should describe the Scouting problem, your study, your methods of

research, your analyses, conclusions, and recommendations, and the bibliography of

literature you used.

c. See the Written Report Guidelines for further details.

ACTION PROJECT GUIDELINES:

In order for the Doctoral report to show evidence of thoughtful project selection, careful planning, and achievement of goals, your project must contain the following elements:

1. Project Description and Problem Definition

a. You will select a project topic by the end of the CDCS course.

b. The PACCS Doctoral Candidate Review Board will handle initial topic approval and

consideration of duplicate ideas. A member of the Doctoral Candidate Review Board

will be appointed as your advisor by the Chairman of the Doctoral Candidate Review

Board.

c. You will apply for final topic approval from your advisor by **September 1** following

the end of your CDCS course.

d. Your application for topic approval will include:

i. Your name, council, and district, and dates of Commissioner College

attendance.

ii. Title of project.

iii. Brief project description.

iv. Problem definition or need for your project.

2. Project Description Criteria

a. Briefly describe the problem you have identified.

b. State how your project or event can be a solution for the problem. Your project may:

i. Improve some Scouting organization or activity.

ii. Develop a new event or activity that would help Scouting.

iii. Your project must be helpful and of real significance to other Commissioners

with similar problems or needs.

c. Briefly outline how you will accomplish your project.

3. Project

a. You must develop, plan, and give leadership to a valuable project or event.

b. To schedule, plan, and advertise the project.

c. To organize the work, supplies, and manpower.

d. To direct the project to completion but involve others in its accomplishment.

4. Outline

a. A one-page outline of your research project must be sent to your advisor by

**October 15** following the end of your CDCS course. This outline encourages you not

to wait to start on your project and provides an opportunity for your advisor to provide

assistance to you.

5. Written Report

1. This is a paper about your project. The fully edited, final paper is due by **May 15** before the Commissioner College session when you expect to receive your Doctor of Commissioner Science degree.

b. This report should describe the Scouting problem, your project, how the project was

done, what it accomplished, your conclusions or recommendations, and the

bibliography of literature you used.

c. See Written Report Guidelines for further details.

Your goals are to complete the CDCS course where you will select a research topic. By **September 1**, submit your final title to your adviser for approval. You will be notified of approval by **September 15**. By **October 15**, submit an outline of your research. Submit a ***rough draft*** of your research report to your adviser no later than **February 1**. Then, by **April 1,** submit the ***review draft*** of your research report for review by the entire Doctoral Candidate Review Board. After the Board has read your report, you may be asked to make some improvements, and you will be notified by **April 1** if your paper is accepted. If your paper is not received by the **February 1** deadline, it will be considered for award of the degree the following year. If approved, email the final version of your written report to the Chair of the Doctoral Candidate Review Board by **May 15**. Note that we have eliminated the need for printed copies of your paper.

Your report becomes the property of the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science, which serves the Blue Ridge, Coastal Carolina, Daniel Boone, Georgia-Carolina, Palmetto, Piedmont, and Sequoyah Councils of the Boy Scouts of America. If your paper is cited, reproduced, or published, you and the College will be given full credit for the work.

Remember, you must have served on the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science staff for at least one year to receive your Doctoral Degree.

The final requirement for graduation is a 5-minute presentation on your research at the Saturday night campfire program.

Doctoral neckerchiefs, slides, and certificates will be presented at graduation ceremonies on Sunday morning following the worship service. You should make all necessary efforts to **attend the entire weekend of PACCS the year you plan to graduate.**

WRITTEN REPORT GUIDELINES:

Your report must be typed, double-spaced, on white 8-1/2 x 11-inch paper. Print one copy of the signature page and bring it to the College for the Doctoral Candidate Review Board signatures. The body of the paper (items 4 through 10 below) should be at least 20 pages.

The report should have the following parts (use the template provided):

1. **Title Page** – showing research title, author's name, Council, District, month, and year of expected graduation, PACCS, location, and advisor.

2. **Signature Page** – for approval by the Doctoral Candidate Review Board.

3. **List of Tables and List of Figures**, if applicable – Each table and figure should be placed in the body of the document immediately after being referenced for the first time. Table and figure numbering (ex. Table 1. or Figure 1.) should be in the order of appearance in the body of the text. Table # or Figure # with a descriptive title should appear below the table or figure.

4. **Abstract** – This is a one- to two-page summary of the work.

5. **Chapter I – Introduction** – A description and background of the Scouting problem, brief description of the project, and why this project was chosen.

6. **Chapter II – Review of Literature** – A description/review of the documents used as references in your paper.

7. **Chapter III – Methods** – Detailed description of the research techniques or project planning and preparations. Refer to questionnaires or other documents used. Surveys and other documents applicable to the research should be placed in an Appendix.

8. **Chapter IV – Results** – Describe the results of the research, the proof of the hypothesis, or the accomplishment of the project. Include tables, summarize surveys, or list materials or costs. Include a limited number and limited size of appropriate photos of the project, if applicable.

9. **Chapter V – Conclusions** – Analyze the meaning of the research done or the accomplishment of the project. Suggest recommendations, if appropriate. Discuss the value of the work to Scouting at the local, regional, or national level. How can others use the work?

10. **References** – Cite reports, books, speeches, and other publications used so others can also refer to the same sources of information. Number each reference. Use that number in the paper to cite the reference, i.e. (1).

11. **Appendices** – Include here any questionnaires, letters of inquiry, or other data-collection forms and maps, plans, or detailed information about the project. Do not interrupt the flow of the main text with information that the reader does not need to see immediately except for data tables and figures referenced in the body of the text. Put information in the Appendix that would help someone else use the idea in his or her district or council.