

Abridged...Course Syllabus

Scholarly Inquiry – Quantitative Research

Faculty

Course Description

This course addresses foundation principles, skills, and methods of quantitative inquiry. Learners examine the importance of defining research questions, designing a study, collecting data, ensuring ethical standards, analyzing and interpreting data, and establishing assumptions and limitations for a study. Statistical applications are introduced and the use of SPSS software is required. Research practices, with applications to relevant community college issues, are used as illustrative examples throughout the course.

Program Outcomes Integration

The course also support learners' mastery of two overarching program outcomes:

- Enhance Academic Quality
- Develop as a person, scholar, and leader

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of IDSL 845, learners will:

1. Perform statistical operations with standard software application(s).
2. Evaluate quantitative research in terms of goals, methods, limitations, results, and generalizability.
3. Create properly developed research questions and survey instruments targeted to study specific phenomenon.
4. Conduct quantitative research from problem definition through data assimilation to include:
 - a. Research design
 - b. Data collection
 - c. Analysis
 - d. Interpretation.
5. Apply particular quantitative research methods.
6. Adhere to generally accepted ethics standards and practices.

Assessment Strategies

The assignments in this course are designed to achieve the course outcomes as well as the identified program outcomes. Each assessment strategy will assess at least one learning outcome. Assignments are due by Sunday at midnight of each module week.

Comprehension Questions

Course Outcomes: 2

After reading and reviewing the course material for the module's topic there will be a series of comprehension questions to answer. The Comprehension Questions assess your understanding of the concepts covered in that module. There will be 10-15 objective questions for each module.

Discussion Participation

Course Outcomes: 2, 5, 6

Like the comprehension questions, discussion participation is to keep you engaged in the content of the module. Acceptable options for participating in discussions include: answering the posed question on the weekly course content, using the discussions to further your understanding of the comprehension questions that were the most challenging for you, and furthering your work on your research proposal. In your discussions, justify your thinking with evidence and source material from the texts and module presentations. Success for discussion participation is posting an original thread and responding to a minimum of two other threads from your colleagues.

Exercises

Course Outcomes: 1, 3, 4

Exercises due throughout the course will be used to assess your skill in identifying the components of research design and your ability to conduct and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics.

Article Critique

Course Outcomes: 2, 5, 6

The article critique is based on a questionnaire to be provided. Select an article that uses a quantitative methodology to analyze data in an educational area of interest to you. One good source for quantitative research in the community college setting is the Journal of Applied Research in Community Colleges. The article critiques should be no more seven pages in length, double-spaced. Succinct answers to the critique questionnaire in your own words will lead to success in this assignment. Additional instructions will be provided.

Research Proposal Project

Course Outcomes: 4, 6

The Research Proposal Project is to help you practice thinking through the research process, asking specific research questions, developing a quantitative research design, and determining appropriate analyses. Additional instructions will be provided.