

ASC/CNE 579 Rev. 1/29/08

ASE 579.02 METHODS OF RESEARCH
Spring 2008
Sam Houston State University
College of Education
Department of Educational Leadership & Counseling

This is a required course for students in the Master's Degree in Counseling, Educational Leadership, and Educational Leadership and Instructional Technology. It should be taken early on in the course sequence, preferably in the first block of courses. There is no prerequisite.

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TIME: Online

PLACE: Online

REQUIRED TEXT:

Gay, L.R. & Airasian, P. *Educational research: Competencies for analysis and applications* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

OPTIONAL TEXT(S):

Gay, L.R. & Airasian, P. *Student guide to accompany educational research Competencies for analysis and application* (8th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

American Psychological Association. (1994). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (8th ed.) Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to guide graduate students in the College of Education through the process of conducting a research study utilizing quantitative and qualitative methods.

OBJECTIVES: Objectives and competencies will be noted within the course calendar using the abbreviations that follow. This was done to ensure that students have covered topics in this course that will prepare them for exit and certification examinations as well as licensing

requirements. This course was designed to meet these objectives and competencies.

- Course objectives=In bold type
- **SBP = SBEC Standards** (State Board for Educator Certification – Standards for the Texas Principals Certification- TExES Texas Examinations of Educator Standards)
- **NCATE** = (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. These will cover standards for both counselors and principals.

Course Objectives Students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the research process and methodology.
2. Identify and define a researchable problem, review related literature, and state the problem in terms of testable hypotheses or researchable questions.
3. Produce a research plan, and state reasons for its importance.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the basics of sampling theory and related subject-selection techniques.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of criteria for evaluation and selection of test instruments and how to apply this knowledge to a research problem.
6. Describe procedures involved in different types of research and can discriminate between types of research. Use a research design to complete a research project.
7. Select and calculate, as appropriate, the following statistics: mean, standard deviation, z-scores, t-tests, ANOVA, Chi Square, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. Use a statistical package such as SPSS for calculating these statistics.
8. Identify research problems requiring statistical application and demonstrate an understanding of the results.
9. Make critical evaluations of published research and judge the generalizability of a given study.
10. Develop the ability to use library resources for research purposes.
11. Learn to distinguish between research and research reviews and other opinion-based writings.
12. Use technology for assignments (Blackboard, e-mail, Power Point, SPSS, internet, Interactive Telecommunication via Video, etc.).
13. Learn a proper style for writing research material (APA style is required).
14. Use ethical procedures in conducting research.

IDEA OBJECTIVES:

Essential:

- Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).
- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
- Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.

Important:

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- Learning to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
- Learning to *analyze* and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Web addresses for standards:

CACREP : <http://www.cacrep.org/2001Standards.html>

Standards for Advanced Programs in Educational Leadership: http://www.sl.edu/graded/AL/pdf/ELCC_Standards.pdf

SBEC: Standards for the School Counselor Certificate:

<http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/default.asp?width=800&height=600>

Principals:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=241&rl=15](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=241&rl=15)

Counselors:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&rl=15](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=239&rl=15)

NCATE: <http://www.ncate.org>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ✓ If you are a student with a **disability** that may affect your academic performance, please contact the professor as soon as possible or you may contact the Director of the Counseling Center as chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students at (936) 294-1720.
- ✓ Academic **honesty** is expected in this class. Plagiarism is a violation and will result in course failure.
- ✓ Attendance. **Online attendance policy.** Must complete all online discussion questions via Blackboard.
- ✓ **Religious Holidays.** A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor in writing via email prior to planned absence.
- ✓ **Late assignments** will be penalized by one letter grade for each 24-hour- period they are not turned in.

- ✓ Unless otherwise noted, **assignments** are due in attachment form using Microsoft Office 2003 in the Instructor's Digital Dropbox via Blackboard.
- ✓ The **syllabus** is subject to change pending notification.

If you need to obtain a student account # for inclusion on a list serve, for sending you information through e-mail, and for analyzing data on SPSS, you can get assistance by calling the Computer Help Desk at 936-294-1950.

EVALUATION/GRADES:

A Total of 100 points can be gained through activities in this course. All activities are designed to move you through the research process toward your final research project.

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90 — 100

B = 80 — 89

C = 70 -79

D = 60 - 69

F = <59

ACTIVITIES

Activities are designed to lead up to completion of a research project, as well as practice important research competencies.

TOTAL POINTS= 100

Activity# 1 Ethical Procedures in Conducting Research on-line training. SET ASIDE AT LEAST TWO HOURS TO COMPLETE THIS ETHICS COURSE. Use the following hyperlink to complete(Click New User Registration first):

<http://cme.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/learning/humanparticipant-protections.asp> Once you have completed the course successfully, please scan the completion certificate and submit it. **(10 points) (Due: 1/27)**

Activity # 2 Library/Data Base Searches for Relevant Abstracts. Abstract 4 articles for initial literature review related to your research (2 articles should reflect quantitative research and 2 should reflect qualitative research). Write an annotated bibliography (one short paragraph for each article) using the APA reference format. Include a cover sheet stating your name, date, course number, and assignment. **(10 pts.) (Due: 2/10)**

Activity # 3 Write research questions for problem selected. **(5 pts.) (Due: 2/17)**

Activity # 4 Application for Human Subjects. In Blackboard, select Course Documents, select Classroom Application and complete what you can and submit it. All forms must be completed, submitted, and approved before any actual research can begin. **(5 pts) (Due: 2/24)**

Activity # 5 Write 1st draft of paper using the articles you abstracted. Use APA format. Follow format in text pg. 532-533 or APA P. 306. (15 pts). Your first draft will be corrected and feedback will be given. The corrections are due along with your 2nd draft. If this is not done, you will not receive the total 15 pts. **(15 pts.) (Due: 3/9)**

Activity # 6 Complete 2nd draft of paper. Add to the first draft. Follow format in text pg. 534-535 This is the Methodology of your paper, include participants, instrument, design, procedure, analysis of the data, and time schedule. You will have an opportunity to revise using the feedback to the original. **(15 pts.) (Due: 4/6)**

Activity # 7 Discussion Questions (Discussion Board).- Each week, I will post discussion questions on the discussion board. Each discussion question response must contain 500 words of content and direct understanding of the subject matter. You will have a due date to post your responses. Once everyone has posted, you will need to reply to two posting for each discussion question by Sunday of that week. There is not word limit to the replies but it must be insightful and thought provoking. **(20 pts.) (Due: Weekly)**

Activity # 8 Final Research Project **(20 pts.)** (15-20 pages minimum) **(Due: 5/4) & (5/11 with all corrections)**

Criteria for Final Research Project:

- APA Format
- Criteria for Content is the General Evaluation Criteria (Text pgs. 532-538).
- Grammar, Mechanics, Spelling