

Course Title: HSA 6504 Research Methods and Procedures 3.0 Graduate Credit Hours

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*use only your mc e-mail account, and preface the subject line with the HSA course number, 6504.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing

Course Description: A survey of the basic research methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences with emphasis on critical reading of published research. Students are required to develop a research proposal.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to enable students to:

- A. Understand the terminology of Health Services and health research.
- B. Understand the nature and goals of Health Services and health research.
- C. Understand quantitative and qualitative research methodologies in the health setting.
- D. Understand the nature, importance and sources of health needs assessment.
- E. Conduct a review of related literature.
- F. Understand the characteristics and types of hypotheses.
- G. Understand the nature and use of descriptive statistics in a research project.
- H. Understand the nature and use of sampling techniques and inferential statistics in a research project.
- I. Understand the use of computers and other scientific tools in educational research.
- J. Understand the nature of reliability and validity.
- K. Understand the nature of needs assessment and program evaluation.
- L. Understand the characteristics and functions of experimental, quasi-experimental, and single-subject research.
- M. Understand the characteristics and functions of causal-comparative research.

N. Understand the characteristics and functions of descriptive, case, and correlational research.

N. Understand the characteristics and functions of survey and historical research.

O. Understand the characteristics and functions of action and outcome-based research.

P. Understand the legal and ethical issues related to doing research.

Q. Develop a research proposal according to APA guidelines for writing.

R. Understand electronic technology's relationship to research writing, sampling, and data analysis.

Academic Integrity:

The current Mississippi College Graduate Catalog addresses the University's position on academic integrity. All students are responsible for knowing the rules and penalties for cheating and plagiarism. See policy 2.19 on the MC web site for additional information. The Graduate Catalog may be viewed on the Mississippi College website.

Course Topics:

The major topics to be covered in MSA 6504 are:

- A. Sources of knowledge and the scientific method
- B. Categories and types of research
- C. Sources of research problems
- D. Stating the problem
- E. Role of related literature
- F. Reference sources in health care
- G. Organizing the related literature
- H. Types of hypotheses
- I. Writing the research proposal
- J. Measurement tools and reliability and validity of instruments
- K. Descriptive statistics
- L. Sampling and inferential statistics
- M. Research designs and validity
- N. Ex post facto, Action and Evaluation research
- O. Correlational and Survey research

Instructional Methods:

Lecture, logon visits to the Mississippi College On-Line Library, cooperative discussion threads, chat room sessions, individual work in the library, and student/teacher on-line chat or phone conferences when needed.

Assignments:

a. Test	100 points
b. Lesson writing assignments	100 points
c. Research proposal – drafts	50 points
d. Research proposal – final version	50 points
e. Participation in threaded discussion and chat room	100 points

Explanations:

1. Research proposals and drafts (c and d): The research proposal (drafts and final versions) should be typed using APA format. The two research proposal drafts will count for up to 25 points each. The first draft will include the literature review, research question, hypothesis, and initial reference section. The second draft will include the same content as the first draft, and will also include the methodology sections of the proposal (subjects, instruments, and procedures). The final research proposal should be 10 to 15 pages in length with a minimum of 15 references. The reference list should include a majority of (no less than 10) **empirical research** articles. *If you cannot find an adequate number of empirical research articles on the topic, you will need to select a different topic that does have an adequate number of empirical research articles available.* The student should follow the outline provided by the instructor for completing the research proposal. The drafts of the research proposal will be turned in for grading by the instructor, as well as a final version. Students are expected to spend considerable time outside of call hours in preparation of their proposal drafts and final version.
2. Tests: The student will take a test at the end of each lesson that covers the major ideas addressed in the lesson. The tests will be short answer and the student will have one opportunity to retake the test to improve the test score if desired.
3. Lesson writing assignments: these assignments are designed to help the student learn about how to conduct research and to learn important concepts needed to prepare the research project proposal. Many of the written products will provide

information that could be useful when preparing the draft and final versions of the student's research proposal.

4. Participation in discussion threads and chat room sessions is vital to the successful completion of this course. Material covered in lessons will be reviewed and clarified; questions will be answered regarding different aspects of the course.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on the assignments listed above. The relative value of each assignment is listed. The following grading scale will be used:

A	-	93-100	Superior
B+	-	89-92	Intermediate
B	-	85-88	Consistently good
C+	-	81-84	Intermediate
C	-	77-80	Average work
D	-	76- 70	Below standard
F	-	<69	Failure – no credit

Please review the [Graduate Catalog](#) for a full description of each grading category.

Additional Course Information:

A. Participation Policy:

Students are required to participate in all threaded and chat room discussions.

B. Special Accommodations:

If you need special accommodations due to learning, physical, psychological, or other disabilities, please contact Dr. Buddy Wagner in the Counseling and Career Development Center. He may be reached by phone at (601- 925-3354 or by mail at Box 4063, Clinton, MS 39058. Dr. Wagner's office is in Lowrey 106.)

Instructional Materials:

A. Required Textbooks:

Chatburn Robert L. (2011) Handbook for Health Care Research (2nd edition), Sudbury, MA. Jones and Bartlett. ISBN 978-0-7637-7805-7.

American Psychological Association . (2009). Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.) Washington, DC: Author. ISBN 978-1-4338-0561-5.

B. Optional:

Pyrzczak, Fred and Bruce, Randall, R. (2007). Writing Empirical Research Reports (6th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyrczak. ISBN 1-884585-75-2.

Pyrzczak, F. (2008). Evaluating Research in Academic journals: A practical guide to realistic evaluation (4th ed.). Los Angeles: Pyrczak. ISBN 1-884585-78-7.

Weekly Assignments

Week 1	Introductions, course completion expectations. Chapter 1 “Why Study Research?” Chapter 2 “Ethics and Research”
Week 2	Chapter 3 “Outcomes Research” Chapter 4 “The Scientific Method”
Week 3	Chapter 5 “Developing the Study Idea” Chapter 6 “Reviewing the Literature”
Week 4	Chapter 7 “Designing the Experiment” Quiz Chapters 1-7 Initial proposal due to turn in
Week 5	Chapter 8 “Steps to Implementation” Chapter 9 “Making Measurements”
Week 6	Chapter 10 “Basic Statistical Concepts” Chapter 11 “Statistical Methods for Nominal Measures”
Week 7	Chapter 12 “Statistical Methods for Ordinal Measures” Chapter 13 “Statistical Methods for Continuous Measures”
Week 8	Quiz Chapters 8-13 Chapter 14 “The Paper” Literature review due to turn in
Week 9	Chapter 15 “The Abstract” Chapter 16 “The Case Report”
Week 10	Chapter 17 “The Poster Presentation” Quiz Chapters 14 – 17 Abstract of paper due to turn in
Week 11	Research proposal due/ Presentations
Week 12	Final exam

*Be prepared for a brief test at the beginning of each class. The content of the test will be related to the underlying principles and/or concepts covered in the previous week's assignments.

Sign and return the last page to the professor. Below is a copy of the statement you will sign.

I have read and understand the syllabi for HSA 6504. I agree to abide by the syllabi and understand that the instructor has the authority to change the schedule and any part of this syllabus. It is my responsibility to obtain any notes and any deviations from the schedule should I fail to attend a class or arrive late. I understand that make-up exams are not given and should I miss an exam I will receive a 0 for the missed exam.

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MHSA 6504**

AGREEMENT

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Signature

Date

Printed Name

Please provide an e-mail address and phone number should the professor need to contact you. You are encouraged to use your mc.edu e-mail and check it regularly.

E-Mail:

Phone: (Cell phone preferred)
