

HUSC/PSYC 203

Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

HUSC/PSYC 203 – Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences: includes an overview of research methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences such as qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research. Students apply the fundamental understanding of research methodology to academic writing and responsible consumption of published research.

Pre-requisites: ENGL 101 and MATH 153 or equivalent

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. discuss the ethical and legal responsibilities of researchers in the behavioral sciences;
2. formulate research questions appropriate to solve an identified problem;
3. prepare a literature review on a topic relevant to the behavioral sciences;
4. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses a research study in the behavioral sciences;
5. describe the role of reliability and validity in understanding and interpreting research reports;
6. apply qualitative research methodologies to address a behavioral sciences research question;
7. demonstrate a variety of qualitative and quantitative data collection strategies;
8. explore diversity and equity issues that are relevant within ethical research;
9. design a hypothetical research study; and
10. write a research proposal in American Psychological Association (APA) format.

Major Topics

- I. Research ethics and foundational studies
- II. Participants' rights and researchers' responsibilities
- III. Designing the research study
- IV. Reviewing the literature
- V. Research methodologies: qualitative, quantitative, and mixed
- VI. Evaluating research outcomes (reliability, validity, and generalizability)
- VII. Review of descriptive and inferential statistics
- VIII. Data collection strategies: qualitative and quantitative
- IX. Writing about research
- X. Critiquing research

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Two written article critiques, minimum 3 pages in length
- Two assignments in which students collect data (one qualitative and one quantitative)
- One research proposal, minimum 5 pages in length
- One research presentation

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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