



GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY™

CNL-540 | Research Methods and Program Evaluation

Topics & Objectives

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces research methods and basic statistical analysis, including the following: the importance of research, opportunities for research, and difficulties in conducting research. Research methods such as qualitative, quantitative, single-case designs, action research, and outcome-based research are addressed.

CREDITS

3

PREREQUISITES

None

CO-REQUISITES

None

Topic 1: Overview of Research in Counseling and Ethical Research with Human Participants

Objectives:

- 1.1: Discuss the relationship between research and program evaluation in counseling.
- 1.2: Analyze the framework for research in counseling.
- 1.3: Identify key principles of ethical research with human subjects. [CACREP 2.F.8.j]
- 1.4: Describe the roles and responsibilities of researchers within the counseling profession. [CACREP 2.F.8.a]

Topic 2: Conducting a Literature Review and Examination of Methodological Issues in Counseling Research

Objectives:

- 2.1: Develop research literacy in regard to counseling research.
- 2.2: Utilize essential practices in locating, exploring, and analyzing the literature on counseling research. [CACREP 2.F.8.a]
- 2.3: Analyze the core methodological issues in conducting counseling research. [CACREP 2.F.8.a]
- 2.4: Compare the strengths and limitations of evidence-based counseling practices. [CACREP 2.F.8.b]

Topic 3: Exploration of Statistical Concepts and Experimental Methods in Counseling Research

Objectives:

- 3.1: Analyze the principal characteristics of a good experimental design. [CACREP 2.F.8.i]
- 3.2: Analyze quantitative designs and methods and how they can be applied to counseling research.
- 3.3: Describe validity and reliability. [CACREP 2.F.8.i]
- 3.4: Describe factors that may affect the internal validity of an experimental design. [CACREP 2.F.8.i]
- 3.5: Analyze basic principles of statistical analysis. [CACREP 2.F.8.i]
- 3.6: Describe the multivariate models within experimental research designs. [CACREP 2.F.8.i]

Topic 4: Qualitative and Quantitative Designs in Counseling Research

Objectives:

- 4.1: Compare core concepts of program evaluation in both qualitative and quantitative research. [CACREP 2.F.8.g]
- 4.2: Analyze qualitative research designs. [CACREP 2.F.8.f, 2.F.8.g]
- 4.3: Analyze quantitative research designs. [CACREP 2.F.8.f, 2.F.8.g]
- 4.4: Evaluate the essential applications of data analysis to counseling research outcomes. [CACREP 2.F.8.g]
- 4.5: Analyze available statistical computer software utilized in the management and reporting of research data and outcomes. [CACREP 2.F.8.h]

Topic 5: An Overview of Survey, Mixed Methods, and Action Research***Objectives:***

- 5.1: Identify the principles of survey development in counseling research. [CACREP 2.F.8.g]
- 5.2: Analyze the advantages and limitations of survey development in counseling research. [CACREP 2.F.8.g]
- 5.3: Analyze the features of quasi-experimental variables and designs. [CACREP 2.F.8.g]
- 5.4: Analyze the purpose and core methodologies utilized in mixed methods designs as applied to counseling research. [CACREP 2.F.8.f]
- 5.5: Describe the primary role and function of action research as applied to counseling. [CACREP 2.F.8.a]

Topic 6: Analysis and Presentation of Findings in Counseling Research***Objectives:***

- 6.1: Compare the use of research and program evaluation in counseling. [CACREP 2.F.8.c, 2.F.8.d, 2.F.8.e]
- 6.2: Describe the advantages and challenges associated with conducting program evaluation. [CACREP 2.F.8.c, 2.F.8.i]
- 6.3: Analyze the ethical issues involved in conducting program evaluation and utilizing data management systems. [CACREP 2.F.8.c, 2.F.8.j]

Topic 7: Writing in Counseling Research: Part I

Objectives:

- 7.1: Describe the framework of writing in counseling research.
- 7.2: Identify the various types of research reports.
- 7.3: Create a reference list to support a literature review on contemporary topics in the field of counseling.
- 7.4: Describe effective scientist-practitioner skill development.

Topic 8: Writing in Counseling Research: Part II

Objectives:

- 8.1: Describe essential differences among qualitative and quantitative research reports. [CACREP 2.F.8.f]
- 8.2: Analyze characteristics of effective writing and publication in counseling research.

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