

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Education and Human Development
Counseling and Development Program
EDCD 601: Introduction to Research in Counseling, Fall 2011

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Office Hours: MT, 3pm to 4pm (or by appointment)
Class Meeting: Monday, 7:20-10:00pm, West 1007

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Course Description

Enhances knowledge of and involvement in counseling research by introducing techniques and principles used to design, implement, and evaluate research projects and program development in community and school settings. *No prerequisites required.*

Course Overview

This course will provide an introduction to research methods, questions, and trends in the field of counseling. Readings and discussions will be used to explore the research process and highlight its role in the field of counseling. Students will be required to write a research proposal. Students will be encouraged to plan a proposal that could serve as the basis for an independent study, dissertation, or development of a school- or community-based counseling program. Consistent with the mission of the Counseling and Development Program, the course strives to develop in students a counseling perspective that incorporates a focus on multiculturalism, advocacy, leadership, and social justice.

Relationship of Course to Program Goals and Professional Organizations

EDCD 601 prepares students to understand research design and evaluation, including basic statistics, so they can use published research to inform practice in schools and agencies. The course also introduces students to research methodology, enabling them to design and conduct research in academic and community settings. EDCE 601 fulfills the research and evaluation requirement for Virginia state school counseling licensure and for the Virginia Licensed Professional Counselor credential. EDCE 601 meets CACREP standard II.K.h (Research and Program Evaluation) and the Graduate School of Education (GSE) standard of research and scholarship.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion based on the needs of the class.
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Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].
- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>].

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu/>].

Professional Dispositions

The American Counseling Association (ACA) code of ethics requires counselors and counselor trainees to maintain standards of professional competence and possess good moral character. The George Mason University Counseling & Development Program has adopted a set of professional performance criteria that is consistent with the ACA code of ethics. Please refer to these dispositions, which may be found at <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/counseling/resources>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a violation of both the George Mason University code of honor and the expected professional dispositions of the Counseling & Development Program. The GMU English Department has developed the following statement regarding plagiarism: "Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinion, or factual information from another person without giving that person credit. Writers give credit through the use of accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or end notes; a simple listing of books and articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in an academic setting. Student writers are often confused as to what should be cited. Some think that only direct quotations need to be credited. While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions to this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writer's own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge. What constitutes common knowledge can sometimes be precarious, and what is common knowledge for one audience may be so for another. In such situations, it is helpful to keep the reader in mind and to think of citations as being reader friendly. In other words, writers provide a citation for any piece of information that they think their readers might want to investigate further. Not only is this attitude considerate of readers and establishes credibility, it will almost certainly ensure that writers will never be guilty of plagiarism."

Student Outcomes

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

- Articulate relevant social justice and multicultural issues related to research and applications for counseling.
- Demonstrate an understanding of methodological and theoretical issues driving the field of counseling research today.
- Conceptualize and design a research proposal, including demonstrating the ability to identify research problems, develop testable questions and hypotheses, and communicate design and analysis plans.
- Write using the APA style.
- Demonstrate competence in critically evaluating counseling research.

Required Texts

- American Psychological Association (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Creswell, J. W. (2008). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Salkind, N. J. (2011). *Statistics for people who think they hate statistics* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Recommended Texts

- Crotty, M. (1998). *The foundations of social research: Meaning and perspective in the research process*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Heppner, P. P., Wampold, B. E., & Kivlighan, D. M. (2008). *Research design in counseling* (3rd ed.). Belmont, CA: Thomas Higher Education.
- Stringer, E. T. (2007). *Action research* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Requirements

Each student is expected to: (1) attend each class, (2) complete all reading assignments before class, (3) arrive on time and stay for the entire class period, and (4) participate in discussions and in-class work groups. **Turn off and put away all electronic communication devices during class. Notify the instructor prior to class if you have an emergency situation that requires accommodation.**

Students in Counseling & Development courses are expected to use APA style for written papers. Links to additional information regarding APA guidelines may be found on the Counseling & Development resource page, <http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/counseling/resources>.

Course Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted prior to the beginning of class on the date due via SafeAssignment on the course Blackboard site. Paper copies will not be accepted. Late homework assignments will be subject to a penalty of 20% for each day late. Quizzes will be completed online via the course Blackboard site. Quizzes may not be completed after the deadline given. Additional assignments and/or assessments may be added at the instructor's discretion.

Students will select a research topic of interest and complete the three components of a research proposal: introduction, literature review, and methods sections. An annotated bibliography will be used to begin the development of the proposal and introduce students to literature on their topic of interest. Students will present their completed research proposal at the end of the course. Research topics are expected to reflect student interests and the C&D program mission, which emphasizes social justice, multiculturalism, advocacy, leadership, and internationalism in counseling.

Annotated Bibliography

The annotated bibliography is a one of the first steps in the research process. The purpose is to become familiar with literature related to your topic of interest. In this assignment, you will develop skills in locating appropriate articles, as well as summarizing and evaluating the content. Using your database search skills (and assistance as necessary) you will locate five research articles from peer-review (scholarly) journals. Review each article and write an annotation for each (between 115 and 130 words each). Following the article citation, each annotation should include a summary of the content *and* an evaluation of the article's usefulness and rigor. You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Introduction and Review of the Literature

The *introduction* component of a research paper introduces the reader to your research issue. The purpose of the introduction is to provide a clear and concise overview of your research study including: the research issue/problem in counseling, a rationale for examining this research issue, and the purpose of your study. The introduction should be one page.

The *review of the literature* will allow you to integrate the knowledge developed from your annotated bibliography to more fully understand your research topic. The literature review should conclude with a restatement of your purpose and your research question(s). The literature review should be four pages. In addition to the one-page introduction and four-page review of the literature, you will include a title page and reference page(s). You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Methods Section

In this section, you will describe the research methods you will use to address your research question. You will apply course material and additional readings as necessary. This section should allow other researchers to replicate your study. The methods section should be between two and three pages (not including title and reference pages). You must adhere to APA (6th ed.) guidelines.

Final Research Proposal Presentation

After completing the components of the research paper, you will present your proposal to the class. Your presentation should be 10 minutes, including time for questions. This is expected to be a professional presentation, and you are encouraged to use visual aids and/or handouts.

Statistics Quizzes (3)

You will complete three online quizzes covering the statistics material from the Salkind readings. The material for each quiz is as follows: Quiz 1 Salkind chapters 1 through 6; Quiz 2 Salkind chapters 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12; and Quiz 3 Salkind chapters 13 through 16. You are permitted to use your book and notes while taking each quiz; you are also permitted to re-take each quiz once, however you must do so by the due date given. Each quiz is worth 5% of the total course grade.

Attendance

In accordance with the policies of the Counseling and Development Program, on-time attendance at every class meeting is expected. Late arrival to class will be considered an absence. **Two or more unexcused absences will result in loss of course credit.** Attendance on the first day of class is required.

Grading

Participation in class discussions and activities	10%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Introduction and Literature Review for Research Paper	30%
Methods Section for Research Paper	15%
Final Research Proposal Presentation	15%
Quizzes	15%

In accordance with the George Mason University Grading Policy, the following grades may be achieved: A [100-97]; A- [96-94]; B+ [93-91]; B [90-87]; B- [86-84]; C [83-80]; F [79 and below]

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Topic(s)	Reading Due	Assignment Due
1	August 29, 2011	Introduction to Research in Counseling		
	September 5, 2011	Labor Day – No Class		
2	September 12, 2011	ATTEND C&D TOWN HALL, 6:30-7:45pm in Mason Hall <u>Meet at Fenwick at 8:15pm</u> Foundations of research; Library Resources	Creswell Ch. 1 Salkind Chs. 1 & 2	
3	September 19, 2011	Quantitative and qualitative methods; Conceptualizing research	Creswell Chs. 2 & 3 Salkind Chs. 3 & 4 Research article on topic	Bring research article to class
4	September 26, 2011	Multicultural Research; Presentation of research topics	Cokley & Awad (via Bb) Salkind Chs. 5 & 6	Oral presentation
5	October 3, 2011	Literature reviews and introductions	Creswell Chs. 4 & 5 Salkind Chs. 7, 8, & 9	Annotated Bibliography Due
6	Tues. October 11, 2011	Qualitative Research	Creswell Chs. 8 & 9	Statistics Quiz 1 (1-6) (complete by 7pm EST)
7	October 17, 2011	No Class: Individual Meetings with Dr. Goodman (to be scheduled in advance)		Research outline for individual meeting
8	October 24, 2011	Quantitative Research	Creswell Chs. 6 & 7 Salkind Chs. 11 & 12	
9	October 31, 2011	No Meeting – Individual work on Introduction & Literature Review		
10	November 7, 2011	Action Research	Stringer Chs. 1 & 2 (via Bb) Salkind Chs. 13 & 14	Introduction & Literature Review Due
11	November 14, 2011	Statistical Analyses	Salkind Chs. 15 & 16	Statistics Quiz 2 (7-9, 11-12) (complete by 7pm EST)
12	November 21, 2011	Evaluating Research; Ethics and Social Justice	Creswell Ch. 10	Methods Due
13	November 28, 2011	Research Proposal Presentations		Presentation
14	December 5, 2011	Research Proposal Presentations		Presentation Statistics Quiz 3 (13-16) (complete by 7pm EST)