

Common Course Outline
HUSC 201
Research Methods in the Behavioral Sciences
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

HUSC 201 – 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.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: 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 behavioral health counseling;
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

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

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

Written Assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective in the Human Services Counseling degree program.