

Research Design

Project Guidelines

OBJECTIVE:

To develop critical thinking and discipline-specific (nursing) writing skills through development of a nursing research project proposal that: focuses on the steps of scientific inquiry; seeks and analyzes the prevailing literature on a topic relevant to nursing care; builds basic knowledge for argumentative writing; and applies fundamentals of team writing, which is common in our discipline.

OUTCOME:

Group Written Research Proposal 20% of final grade
(10-12 pages not including references or title page)

- a. Follows appropriate research proposal format including the following sections:
 - Abstract
 - Introduction with Specific Aims
 - Background
 - Significance
 - Methods (proposed)
 - Analysis (proposed)
 - Protection of Human Subjects (IRB)
- b. Utilizes appropriate APA Format
- c. Evaluated based on the grading rubric attached below.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. You are a group of nursing professionals who have been tasked, by your Chief Nursing Officer, with creating a research project to find some answers to a particularly relevant and pressing nursing care issue.
2. You have been asked to compose, research, draft, review, revise, edit, and submit a formal written grant proposal of 10-12 pages (not including title, references, or appendices pages) to the National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR) funding section. Your proposal to the NINR seeks money to support this research project, which you hope will get answers to this pressing issue.
3. You will be placed in to groups of 4 or 5 students by the course professor at the beginning of the semester. You will work in your assigned group for the entire semester, to create one final nursing research proposal.
4. To begin writing your paper, you will need to brainstorm first. Use information and feedback from the following pre-writing class activities to create your research questions, hypotheses, and problem statements.
 - a. *The 5 Favorites Questionnaire*
 - b. *The Problem Definition Worksheet*
 - c. *PICO Worksheet*
 - d. *The Steps of the Research Process Worksheet*

5. Clarify words, phrases, definitions, and meanings through the use of lower levels of evidence (Wikipedia, Google, Social Media) to center and focus your literature search.
6. Locate evidence from appropriate primary and secondary sources to support **AND** refute your hypothesis or question. You should begin with your concept mapping class exercise to focus your search and divide the labor. ODU Library searches of journal databases (CINAHL, PUBMED, PSYCHINFO, Cochrane), feedback from peer review, and hand searches of primary and secondary sources are good sources of information.
7. Choose the 10 most promising articles. At least 5 must be from primary sources, one a meta-analysis or systematic review, one a source of statistical information (WHO, CDC, Worldbank, CIA, etc.) and one text or source supporting your methodology in answering your research question.
8. Compose a literature review table using the 10 sources from step 6. Fill in the blanks of the literature review table, answering each question for all 10 sources. You can find the table template in the resources section of the Blackboard course site.

ACTION ITEM: *Literature Review Table due at beginning of Module 3/Day 3 via Blackboard.*

9. Analyze articles for similarities and differences and ***synthesize*** available data on the topic into a **Background and Significance** section of the proposal. Answer the following questions: *What* is the issue? *Who* does this issue affect? *When* was it, or will it be a problem? *Where* is the issue most prevalent (local, regional, national, global)? *Why* is this relevant to nursing and why should anyone care about the issue? *What* are the current statistics on the condition/problem? *What* happens if we don't conduct research and make changes to practice?

ACTION ITEM: *Introduction, Background, and Significance sections of paper at beginning of Module 5/Day 5 via Blackboard.*

10. Propose a nursing research study that has not yet been conducted, that will contribute to nursing knowledge, and that possibly has implications for nursing practice. In other words, based on your research question, what kind of study will shed more light on the answer? What is it we still need to know, before we can implement changes? Compose a **Research Methods** section that incorporates population, sample, sampling plan, exclusion and inclusion criteria, instruments for gathering data, and a description of how the chosen instruments are valid and reliable. (See sample papers on Blackboard).
11. Discuss the **analysis plan**, ensuring that the research question, research methods, and data analysis plans are aligned and appropriate for the answers you seek (refer to texts, powerpoints, and course professor feedback).

ACTION ITEM: *Research Methods and analysis sections of paper due at the beginning of Module 7/Day 7.*

12. Finally, discuss what your research team will do to protect the subjects (humans) that will hopefully participate in your study. This is your **Human Subjects protection** plan. What protections do you need, as a research team? What risks would your participants be concerned about? What risks/benefits would an Institutional Review Board be worried about? Discuss these risks/benefits, and methods to address any potential risks during your study.
13. From your background, significance, methods, analysis, and human subjects sections, compose an **abstract** that gives a complete overview of the project. This abstract should be a stand-alone synopsis of your project, in 500 words or less. It should include one or two detailed sentences from each section of your paper.
14. Revise, edit, and proofread your paper prior to submission. Your paper should follow strict APA guidelines, be double spaced, free of grammatical and spelling errors, include headings and subheadings, and be written in 12 point Times New Roman Font. Papers will be graded using the attached rubric.

ACTION ITEM: *Submit final research proposal paper by the beginning of Module 9/Class 9.*

HONORS SECTION NURS 387
(Additional Requirements for Nursing Honors Students)

1. Group will revise written proposal incorporating feedback from course professor(s)
2. Register research proposal and apply for funding with ODU Undergraduate Research Program
 - a. Review Undergraduate Research Program Website *thoroughly*
(<http://www.odu.edu/research/student/undergradresearch>)
 - b. Register proposal at
(<http://www.odu.edu/research/student/undergradresearch/register>)
 - c. Apply for funding (exact funding opportunity TBD with course professor based on project design)
3. Attend the ODU Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium and present project if accepted
4. If project is funded, Honors student group must submit poster presentation and attend a local, regional, or national research conference by May, 2014 (conference

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TBD by student group and course professor(s). This is required **in addition** to funding organization guidelines.