

RES820 - Research Methods & Design
(3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course offers critical concepts to apply research paradigms, study designs, and methods of inquiry. Student's will formulate and respond to research questions. The course is designed to prepare the student to select valid and defensible research design choices in order to gather and interpret findings.

Unlike traditional courses, you will work at your own pace, with no due dates. For that reason, RES820 is arranged by modules ("mods"), not weeks, though the course still follows a traditional 7-week schedule. Proceed to the next mod only when you have completed the current one. **You are not required to complete all mods.**

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the 7-week term you should be able to:

1. Analyze the research process and key components of designing a study.
2. Choose, formulate, and defend a method and study design elements based on the problem to be examined.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

For this course you will not need a textbook.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is critical for academic success. Regardless of the number of modules you complete, you should reserve **15-20 hours per week** for course work. Though there are no due dates for the completion of mods, the course ends after Week 7, just as other online course. Your final assignments should be submitted by the end of Week 7.

Learning Activities

Given the self-paced nature of RES820, there are no forums or group work. Rather, your interactions will be exclusively with the instructor. For assessment, you will submit one written paper each module. The most important requirement is to keep making progress. Some of you will finish all of the module activities, some of you will not. It is only a problem if you make no progress at all throughout the seven weeks.

Grading

You will not receive a letter grade for RES820. Rather, the course will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. For individual assignments, you will receive either a "Complete" or "Needs Revision." If you receive the latter grade you will have to revise your work before proceeding to the next module. When your instructor has approved all of the activities for one module, you will move on to the next.

After completing an assignment, let your professor know that you have submitted it. Within 48 hours, your professor will contact you to set up a conference call to review your work and let you know whether your work needs revision, or you can move on.

Note: The **end-of-module calls** are mandatory in that you will receive no credit for work completed if your previous work has not been approved.

Course Outline

Module	Learning Activity / Topic
Mod 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 1: Research Methodology
Mod 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 2: Research Questions
Mod 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 3: Research Design
Mod 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 4: Population and Participants
Mod 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 5: Preparing to Collect Data
Mod 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 6: Confirming Your Methodology
Mod 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 7: Procedures for Data Collection
Mod 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Activity 8: Data Analysis

Expectations

For this mostly self-paced course, your instructor will expect you to:

- Thoroughly review orientation materials (Start Here) before beginning Mod 1.
- Monitor your TU email account **at least every 2-3 days** for important updates and announcements.
- Take ownership of your learning experience and act in a proactive, self-directed manner. That means:
 - Submit all work in APA format.
 - Utilize and incorporate instructor provided feedback to improve your work.
 - Ask questions so you can better understand course material or assignments.
 - Use the highest standards of intellectual honesty and integrity.

In turn, you should expect your instructor to:

- Post an introductory announcement/email at the beginning of each module to provide updates and helpful information.
- Maintain an active and engaged presence throughout the course.
- Respond to your emailed questions within 48 hours, if not sooner.
- Clearly communicate any absences or expected non-participation due to extenuating circumstances. For example, "I will be traveling to attend a funeral this week and may not be able to respond to questions or participate in forums for a couple of days."
- Provide constructive feedback in a timely manner on the strengths and weaknesses of your work, with suggestions for how you can improve your performance.
- Advocate for your success as a learner and help guide you toward successful completion of the attainment of course learning outcomes.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.