

Certificate in Advanced Studies (CAS) in Research Methods

Kremen School of Education and Human Development

Student Outcomes Assessment Plan (SOAP)

I. Mission Statement

The mission of the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Research Methods is to empower professionals in all areas of education and other disciplines to learn about advanced methodologies in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research and to develop the skills to make ethical, sound and supportable decisions to advance the education of all persons.

II. Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Goal A: CAS Research Methods graduates will understand the theories underpinning quantitative research, statistical methodologies, qualitative research, and mixed methods research.

Objective A-1: Define and explain the theories which makes modern statistics possible.

Objective A-2: Define and explain the theories of qualitative research methods.

Objective A-3: Compare and contrast the quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research paradigms.

Goal B: CAS Research Methods graduates will understand the ethics of research; know the principles of protecting human subjects; respect individuals of diverse ethnicities, races, religions, and genders; and utilize accepted and ethical procedures for conducting research.

Objective B-1: Identify the components of an IRB proposal and potential problems.

Objective B-2: Explain how research can expose discrimination.

Goal C: CAS Research Methods graduates will develop exemplary skills in designing research studies, measuring constructs, and collecting information.

Objective C-1: Understand how to formulate a research question or research statement.

Objective C-2: Select the appropriate research approach to answer a research question or explore a research statement.

Objective C-3: Design instruments, surveys, and interview protocols, and explain the principles of reliability and validity.

Objective C-4: Collect data and design systems to manage that data.

Goal D: CAS Research Methods graduates will develop exemplary skills in analyzing data, interpreting results accurately, and making sound decisions based on those results.

Objective D-1: Develop the skills to analyze quantitative data with appropriate, advanced statistical techniques.

Objective D-2: Develop the skills to code and analyze qualitative data with appropriate, credible methods.

Objective D-3: Interpret and critically evaluate results.

Goal E: CAS Research Methods graduates will become informed consumers, qualified producers of research, and leaders in disseminating research results both orally and written.

Objective E-1: Critically evaluate and summarize research.

Objective E-2: Communicate research in writing and orally.

Objective E-3: Identify channels of dissemination of research.

III. Curriculum Map (Matrix of Courses X Learning Outcomes)

	Objectives														
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	E1	E2	E3
ERE 153	x					x			x	x		x	x		
ERE 220		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
ERE 260					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ERE 288				x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x
ERE 287		x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
ERE 289	x					x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x

IV. Assessment Measures

A. Direct Measures (at least three)

1. Completing the NIH Protecting Human Research Participants Certification (<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>).
2. Writing literature review and proposing a research study.
3. Collecting and analyzing quantitative data and writing up results for statistical techniques.

4. Conducting a field-based program evaluation.
5. Collecting and analyzing data and writing up results for a qualitative research design.

B. Indirect Measure

1. Graduate and Employer Surveys