

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

SW 506- SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

MSSW PROGRAM

DR. MUAMMER CETINGOK

OUTLINE FOR A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

I. TITLE

Indicate the area within which the study is contemplated. Be as specific as you can state it at this point.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENTS

Practice Problem/Theoretical Problem

First, state the practice (or theoretical) problem and what makes this problem “a problem of interest” to you. Try to accumulate preliminary information about this problem. By doing so, you are developing a broad conceptual framework within which you will see your research problem being shaped, or “emerging.”

Research Problem (Question)

Second, identify your research problem as discussed in our class sessions and state it in question form.

III. REVIEW OF RELEVANT INFORMATION (LITERATURE REVIEW;
RELATED RESEARCH; PREVIOUS WORK)

What research work and/or other information, i.e., empirical, theoretical, descriptive, and practice related information are available along the lines of the study contemplated? What is known and what is unknown? What knowledge is missing, lacking, inadequate, or inaccurate?

Integrate research and other references and summarize all the information to make the point that some piece that you need for practice or (theory building) is missing, lacking, etc.

IV. HYPOTHESIS (ES)

What is (are the hypothesis (es) which the study proposes to test? State specifically.

V. VARIABLES

What principal (major) variables will be employed?
State the theoretical and operational definitions of these variables.

VI. VALIDATION OF HYPOTHESIS (ES)

Take each hypothesis separately; indicate what you would consider as theoretical and statistical evidence that would substantiate or nullify the hypothesis.

VII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY/PROCEDURES

Population and sample of the study (define both of them. Also explain the method of sampling, and the procedure to sample).

Design structure (work out the design structure as discussed in class)

Also, explain the type (s) of data you will be collecting; sources of these data; and instrumentation. (What type of data will you generate? What setting will you use? Where will you go to collect the data and with what instrumentation, i.e., interview, case study, questionnaire, personal/public documents, observations, etc?)

VIII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

Explain your plan (s) for processing, tabulating, analyzing the data and interpreting the findings following your analysis. You need to work out blank (dummy) tables at this point.

IX. LIMITATIONS AND DEFICIENCIES OF THE STUDY DESIGN

Explain the issues of adequacy of theoretical knowledge already available; problem identification; usable hypothesis (es); operational definitions of variables; sampling; personal biases, diversity/ discrimination, ethical issues and concerns; adequacy of data, and of data analysis, etc.

In summary, write about the concerns and deficiencies you see in the entire proposal.

X. CONTRIBUTIONS

Write about contributions to social work practice, and to theory. Write about the implication for further research and practice

A proposal to be submitted for funding also requires information about personnel, budget, facilities, and other items as may be asked for by the specific RFP's (Requests for Proposals). At this point, however, I do not ask you to include these in your proposal.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR GRADING YOUR PROPOSAL:

Clarity of practice and research problem (s), research question (s)

Specification of your hypothesis (es)

Operationalization of variables

Clarity of design structure

Capability of the design to affirm (substantiate) or nullify (refute) the hypothesis (es)

Awareness of the limitations and deficiencies of the study design

STUDENT COMPUTER EXERCISE QUESTIONNAIRE

Gender: Male----- Female-----

Race: Black----- White----- Other-----

Age: (In years):-------(as of last birthday)

Height: Feet----- Inches-----

Weight: (In pounds):------

Feeding Method: Coercive----- Permissive-----

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Given the data set we have generated in class, please complete the following assignments using microcomputers and statistical analytic software.

ASSIGNMENT 1: This assignment deals with the use of computer for contingency analysis. Conduct a contingency (chi square) analysis by using two variables of your choice from the data set. Describe the process you followed, and interpret your findings.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Conduct a regression analysis by using the weight variable as your dependent and the age and height variables as your independent variables. Describe the process you followed, and interpret your findings.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Conduct an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by using the feeding method as your independent variable and the weight variable as your dependent variable. Describe the process you followed, and interpret your findings.