

**WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**  
**BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE TITLE:**

~~PSY 408~~ In an area of personal interest. SOC 331 (Research, Writing and Information Literacy in the Behavioral Sciences) is designed to teach students information literacy, orient them toward scholarly research articles, develop academic writing skills required in the behavioral sciences, and familiarize them with research methods and APA style. In SOC 340 (Applied Research Design), students are introduced to developing a plan to answer a question known as a research proposal. As part of the course, students actually begin to develop their own proposals. Finally, in PSY 408 (Seminar in Behavioral Science), students finish the proposal writing process and participate in an IRB review. The sequence of these courses has been carefully planned to maximize student learning. It is highly important for students to understand how each course builds upon the other to culminate in a final research project.

**II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:**

**GOAL A:**

Students will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in an area of research interest.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- A-1 Conceptualize a research question.
- A-2 Identify appropriate literature to review.
- A-3 Summarize and analyze research.
- A-4 Read/synthesize/integrate literature.
- A-5 Develop research proposal.
- A-6 Complete IRB form.
- A-7 Participate in mock IRB review process.

**GOAL B:**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of statistics.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- B-1 Explain how to compute mean, median and mode.
- B-2 Explain the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics.
- B-3 Contrast the null hypothesis with a research hypothesis.
- B-4 Describe the role probability plays in statistical inference and explain what is meant by "statistically significant."
- B-5 Describe the t-test and discuss the difference between a one-tailed and two-tailed test.
- B-6 Describe the F-test.
- B-7 Explain the difference between Type I error and Type II errors and what causes them.

**GOAL C:**

Students will become familiar with community agencies and available services.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- C-1 List agencies that address particular interests and are potential employers.
- C-2 Contact and interview agencies in chosen area of interest.
- C-3 Discuss interviews with class members and/or instructor.

**GOAL D:**

Students will understand the role of a professional in the social sciences.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- D-1 Define roles of professional organizations and professionalism.
- D-2 Define ethical issues related to professionalism.
- D-3 Discuss the educational requirements and job responsibilities of various human services, such as Social Worker, Counselor or Educator.
- D-4

**GOAL E:**

The student will be able to write and speak as a professional.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- E-1 Conceptualize and write a research proposal.
- E-2 Present their research proposal orally in a professional manner.
- E-3 Critique and provide constructive feedback for peer proposals.
- E-4 Prepare a professional resume.
- E-5 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatical style.
- E-6 Present written information using standard APA style.

**GOAL F:**

The student will read research critically.

**Learning Outcomes:** The student will:

- F-1 Identify the type of research used.
- F-2 Specify the purpose of the research.
- F-3 Identify the research methods used.
- F-4 Evaluate research results and identify possible fallacies.
- F-5 Critique a scholarly article.
- F-6 Craft a problem statement.
- F-7 Integrate research studies to create a literature review.