

Qualitative-Quantitative Continuum

- Qualitative methods create data sets containing words, derived from interviews and observations that are analyzed using the appropriate interpretive techniques
- Quantitative methods create data sets containing numbers that are analyzed using the appropriate statistical techniques

Qualitative – Quantitative Continuum

- Use Qualitative methods when:
 - Inquiry questions require deep understand from multiple perspectives
 - Little is known about the topic being assessed
- Use Quantitative methods when:
 - Inquiry questions require a breadth of perspectives on the construct
 - Desire to isolate the relationships between two or more variables

Core Skills in Conducting Research

- I. Identify the problem
- II. Review literature about the problem
- III. Formulate and revise the question
- IV. Identify the population and select the sample
- V. Collect, analyze, interpret data
- VI. Write-up result and disseminate

IMPACT STUDIES in ADVISING

- International students;
- Students from underrepresented populations; Impact of advising on retention;
- Impact of advising on student decision-making;
- Comparative studies of advising models; Measurement of student learning from advising

CONTEXT STUDIES in ADVISING

- Faculty roles in academic advising
- Use of technologies in engaging students in advising
- Historic studies of the development of advising
- Advising models in settings outside the face-to-face advising meeting

Theoretical Basis for Advising

- Theory-building from humanities disciplines and other disciplinary areas underrepresented in college student literature
- Connections between academic advising and higher education's broader learning mission

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Conduct Extensive Literature Review

NACADA Journal (ERIC, Social Science Citation Index, Education Abstracts, Psych Abstracts, etc.)

- improve your knowledge base
- build upon previous research efforts
- look for good methodology models
- become familiar with research publication formats
- establish basis to justify and support your research (and advising) efforts

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What to review?

- Previous research on same topics
- Previous research on related topics (“parallel”)
- Research population (subjects)
- Research techniques (methods)
- Research materials (surveys, tests)
- Theoretical frameworks

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WRITING INQUIRY QUESTION

- Outline your thoughts and explore the purpose of conducting the scholarly inquiry relationships
- Identify the explicit question you wish to study
 - What is the relationship...
 - To what extent does...
 - What is the impact of
- Share the question with colleagues and revise several times

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Sample Selection

- Define potential participants; what voices do you want in your study?
- How will you select and contact the appropriate number of people?
- Will you need to IRB and informed consent?

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IRB

Most post-secondary institutions have a person or committee that reviews proposed research and supports or rejects the use of humans as subjects. These may be termed:

- Human Subjects Committee
- Institutional Review Board

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IRB

- You must obtain clearance from your respective review entity in order to conduct your research
- All federally funded research requires approval at both the institutional level and the federal level

Note: NACADA requires institutional support to be considered for a NACADA Research Grant

Data Collection

- Use data collection technique that is most suited to adequately answer your research question
- Clearly identify the limitations of your choice
- Consider multiple or mixed methods when appropriate

DATA Analysis and Interpretation

- Carefully organize data for analysis (use data tools such as SPSS or NVIVO)
- Clearly describe the steps in the analysis procedures
- Identify limitations and note where deviations took place
- Be sure you can defend your decisions and conclusions

Reflection and Dissemination

- Commit yourself to the time and resources needed for yourself and your staff
- Ask for help from colleagues and collaborate with others
- Follow sound research practices from the start
- Submit your work for peer review

NACADA Research Committee Website:

<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/AdministrativeDivision/research.htm>

For information on:

- NACADA's research agenda
- Writing a NACADA research grant
- Additional research resources
- Contact information