

# Student Learning Outcomes

PRST 5300 - Research Methods

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

PRST 5300 - Research Methods (3 cr.) - Prerequisite: Admission to the MPS Program or Departmental approval  
The study and application of research methods appropriate to professional studies. The course will provide a general introduction to research methods, as well as providing practical exposure to problem statements, Literature Reviews, Writing the Research Proposal, and Organization of the Research Report. Quantitative and Qualitative Research methodologies will be briefly covered in preparation for the later courses in these areas.

## SCENARIO

For this online graduate research methods course, students are to write a three (3) chapter research/thesis proposal utilizing secondary sources from the library research databases.

The librarian will provide handouts and tutorials (linked/embedded) to cover each of the student learning outcomes: selecting topic concepts/keywords; accessing and searching subject-specific article databases available through APSU and RODP libraries; and formatting and citing sources in APA style. There are several points in the research cycle for the librarian to offer feedback via discussion boards, emails and chats in the online D2L environment.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES [a=audience, b=behavior, c=condition, d=degree of accomplishment]

By identifying at least two concepts from a topic for their search strategy [d] students [a] will demonstrate that they know how to select concepts from a topic to focus their searches in *ABI/Inform* or *other* databases from the research guide [b] after reviewing Choosing a Topic and Finding Articles LILT modules [c].

Students[a] will select three dissertations or theses on their subject [d] after viewing a tutorial [c] on searching Dissertations and Theses [b].

Following a review of the Finding Articles LILT module [c], students [a] will select six journal articles that are available either electronically or locally [d] to demonstrate their ability to locate items identified through *ABI/Inform* or other library subject-specific databases [b].

Through correctly citing six journal articles with no more than three errors from *ABI/Inform* or other library subject-specific databases [d], students [a] will demonstrate using the appropriate style format for journal articles from a database in APA Style [b] after reviewing the Citing Sources LILT module and OWL APA website.[c].

Students [a] will format their research proposal in APA format [b] with no more than 3 errors [d] after reviewing a handout and sample paper on formatting a paper in APA style [c].

## POSSIBLE ASSESSMENTS

- Discussion board report on at least two concepts
- Research log
- Reference list of at least 10 sources (drop box)
- Annotated bibliography (drop box)
- Literature review (drop box)
- Research Proposal (drop box)