**Research content covered on exam:**

Research in the human services

Steps in conducting research

Theory and research

Two logical systems: deductive approach versus inductive approach

Quantitative research methods

Qualitative research methods

The ethics and politics of social work research

Problem formulation

Literature review

Developing hypotheses

Independent variables and dependent variables

Operationalization of concepts

Measurement:
  - Levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio measures
  - Validity and types of validity: face validity, criterion-related validity, and construct validity
  - Reliability and types of reliability: interrater reliability, test-retest reliability, and internal consistency reliability
Research Designs

Samples and populations
Sampling frame
Sampling errors and biased samples
Sampling methods: Probability sampling: simple random sampling, systematic sampling, stratified sampling, and multistage cluster sampling
Nonprobability sampling: availability sampling, snowball sampling, quota sampling, and purposive sampling.

Experimental designs: Criteria for inferring causality
Internal validity and threats to internal validity: History, maturation, testing, instrumentation, statistical regression, selection bias

True experimental designs and quasi-experimental designs

External validity and threats to external validity

Survey designs: self-administered questionnaires, interview surveys, and telephone surveys

Data analysis:
SPSS data files
Descriptive statistics
Inferential statistics
Significance level
Type I error and type II error

Univariate analysis: central tendency (mean, median, mode) and dispersion (range, variance, standard deviation)

Z scores and percentiles
Bivariate analysis: correlation, independent t-test, paired t-test, ANOVA, and chi-square

Multivariate analysis: multiple regression

Single subject designs (SSD)/program evaluation

Types of SSD: AB, ABA, ABAB, multiple-baseline designs, and multiple-component designs

Theoretical significance
Statistical significance
Practical significance

Highly Recommended Readings


Additional Readings


