

SE 573: Research Methods

Course Description and Abbreviated Syllabus

3 credit hours (45 hours towards BCBA content)

Students will receive the following course content towards BCBA requirements:

- 25 hours of Measurement
- 20hours of Experimental Design

Course Description:

Course includes an overview of research method techniques, theoretical foundations of empirical research, principles of the scientific method, experimental designs, analyses of research designs, research protocol, and formation of research hypothesis. The majority of the course will be devoted to methods related to single-case research (i.e., data collection, logic, designs).

This course is open to graduate and post-graduate students interested in obtaining knowledge of Behavior Analysis and certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Students are expected to read professional literature, participate in discussions, complete literature research, and practice the application of behavioral principles. Completion of assignments and class participation are essential to meeting the course objectives.

Additional Course Information:

Students will be expected to read all materials prior to the scheduled class time in order to better understand the class content and participate with the class discussion. Students will be graded on their participation, weekly quizzes and exams. The instructor will be responsible to preparing lecture and activity based materials to help facilitate learning the course objectives. The instructor also provides ample opportunities for applied experiences with in the community for students who are interested in the real life applications of the skills learned in class. Topics covered in this course are taught in a specific sequential order. All material builds on previously covered topics. Missing a class will directly impact your ability to understand the next lecture and ultimately impact your overall grade. Students should plan on attending all classes.

Prerequisites: SE 570, SE 571

Course objectives: After completing this course students will:

1. Understand the scientific method and determine what is science and pseudoscience.
2. Be able to analyze current research in the literature and identify flaws in the research method.
3. Be able to develop a research protocol and apply for permission to conduct research within a research-based institute.
4. Be able to develop a research hypothesis and a single subject design for implementation.