

ECU's Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies
Application to PhD in Counselor Preparation and Research
Research Proposal Purpose and Guidelines

Purpose: As part of your application to our PhD in Counselor Preparation and Research, we want to get a sense of your professional writing skills as well as your research interests. We will use this written proposal to guide our conversation during your interview for admission into the program. The goal will be to collaboratively develop a plan for (a) addressing challenges you may have (e.g., statistics, writing) and (b) capitalizing on your strengths while matriculating through the program.

Guidelines: In no more than five pages plus a title page and reference list, please propose a research study that you are interested in completing. Using the American Psychological Association's most current guidelines for publication, please organize your proposal across the following sections:

- Statement of the problem. Please delineate:
 - The general social problem (e.g., addiction, depression, disability, PTSD, etc.) and consequences (e.g., incidence, cost) being addressed by your study,
 - The specific problem, deficiency, or knowledge gap in the counseling field you will address, and
 - The Arguments for why your study should be done.
- Research questions. Please list the research questions your study will answer. Your questions should contain clearly identified independent and dependent variables.
- Prospective research design and analysis. Please describe and justify:
 - The research design you would use to answer your research questions, and
 - The proposed statistical analysis you would employ to analyze your data.
- Prospective implications. Please delineate how the results of your study MIGHT impact counselor training, supervision, and counseling practice.

Please contact Dr. W. Leigh Atherton (athertonw@ecu.edu) if you have questions about this writing sample.