

PSY 316

Research Methods in Psychology

Summer 2026

Online Asynchronous | 3 Credits

Course Number	PSY 316
Course Title	Research Methods in Psychology
Department	Psychology
School	School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Term	Summer 2026
Credits	3
Delivery Format	Online asynchronous
Canvas	https://chaminade.instructure.com

Instructor Information

Instructor	Abby Halston, Ed.D., NCC, LMFT
Email	abby.halston@chaminade.edu
Office Telephone	808-739-4641
Office Location	Behavioral Sciences 111A
Office Hours	Mondays, 8:00-10:00 a.m., virtually by appointment; email to schedule
Response Time	Email: within 24 hours; Canvas assignment comments: within 48 hours

Course Description and Overview

University Course Catalog Description

This course provides an introduction to quantitative research methodology and design. Topics include the research process, measurement, sampling, ethics in social research, survey research, experimental research, and field research. Students will complete a research proposal as a major course requirement.

Course Overview

This course is an intensive introduction to methodologies used in psychological research. Students will examine descriptive, correlational, experimental, quasi-experimental, and nonexperimental approaches. Additional topics include ethics, hypothesis testing, validity, reliability, levels of measurement, questionnaire development, sampling, and statistical significance. Students will use online databases to locate scholarly articles, review prior literature, interpret research findings, and present a research proposal using APA style.

Mission and Values

Marianist Values

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice, and peace.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Native Hawaiian Values

- 1. Formation in Faith (Mana):** E ola au i ke akua - May I live by God.
- 2. Integral, Quality Education (Na‘auao):** Lawe i ka ma‘alea a kū‘ono‘ono - Acquire skill and make it deep.
- 3. Family Spirit (‘Ohana):** Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
- 4. Service, Justice, and Peace (Aloha):** Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
- 5. Adaptation and Change (‘Āina):** All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Learning Outcomes

Psychology Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

1. Identify key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
2. Demonstrate adaptation and change through critical interpretation, design, and evaluation of psychological research.
3. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication within the field of psychology.
4. Explain the dynamic interaction among mind, body, and social influences as part of educating the whole person.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of PSY 316, students will be able to:

1. Explain the objectives, strengths, and limitations of scientific inquiry. (PLO 2)

2. Identify ethical issues in psychological research and recognize potential sources of ethical violations. (PLO 2)
3. Critique research methodologies, including stages of the research process and threats to reliability and validity. (PLO 2)
4. Develop testable hypotheses and apply appropriate research methods in a formal research proposal. (PLO 3)

Program Linking Statement

This course develops and assesses skills related to applied psychology, the scientific method and its application in psychology, and cross-cultural psychology.

Articulation of Characteristics and Values

Although all five Marianist characteristics are represented, this course places particular emphasis on education for service, justice, and peace. Students will examine how equality, fairness, culture, and social justice should inform behavioral-science research questions, methods, sampling decisions, and interpretation.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes

Alignment	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
Marianist Value	3	3	3	3
Program Learning Outcome	2	2	2	3

Course Requirements and Materials

Prerequisites

EN 102 and PSY 101. Students should have reliable internet access and strong time-management skills.

Required Text

Cozby, P. C., & Bates, S. C. (2020). *Methods in Behavioral Research* (14th ed.). McGraw Hill Education.

Technology Requirements

- Reliable access to a PC or Mac computer and the internet.
- Ability to stream video, play MP3/MP4 files, and open PDF documents.
- Speakers or headphones for audio and video content.
- Regular access to Canvas for readings, assignments, quizzes, announcements, and feedback.

For Canvas or technology assistance, contact the Chaminade IT Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or 808-735-4855.

Credit Hour Requirement

Each Chaminade University credit hour represents 45 hours of student engagement. This three-credit course therefore requires a minimum of 135 hours of engagement. Course engagement includes assigned readings, quizzes and examinations, scholarly article reviews, research proposal development, online learning activities, instructor interaction, and preparation of written and electronic presentations.

Course Activity	Estimated Hours
Chapter reading	30
Chapter assessments and examinations	30
Scholarly article reviews and research	30
Research proposal and presentation	30
Final examination preparation	15
Total	135

Assessment and Grading

Assessment Summary

Assessment	Description	Points
Chapter Quizzes and Final Exam	Assess understanding of chapter concepts, lecture content, and course exercises.	122
Illustrative Article Reviews	Applied reviews of professional literature connected to selected research-methods topics.	82
Research Proposal Paper and Presentation	APA-style research proposal and 15-minute electronic presentation.	60
Communities of Practice	Two meaningful participation submissions, 10 points each.	20
Total Possible Points		284

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%

D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Assignment Descriptions

Chapter Quizzes and Final Examination

Chapter quizzes assess comprehension of assigned readings. The final examination assesses chapter concepts, course content, and applied research-methods skills.

Illustrative Article Reviews

Selected modules include professional articles that demonstrate and extend course concepts. Students will respond to discussion questions requiring application, critical thinking, and synthesis of the research.

Research Proposal Paper

Students will prepare an APA 7th edition research proposal addressing a specific problem within their field of interest. The proposal must include the following components:

- Title page.
- Abstract of no more than 120 words summarizing the hypothesis, proposed procedure, and projected results.
- Literature review describing prior research and relevant theory.
- Statement of the problem, including the research question, hypothesis, and prediction.
- Methodology with literature-supported justification.
- Operational definitions.
- Participant description and proposed sampling procedures.
- Detailed procedures and proposed materials, assessments, or intervention.
- A sample survey or data-collection instrument.
- A proposed statistical analysis using hypothetical data.
- Reference list containing at least eight peer-reviewed journal articles.

Electronic Presentation

Students will create and upload an approximately 15-minute electronic presentation summarizing the research proposal.

Communities of Practice

Students will provide evidence of meaningful participation in an approved psychology or Chaminade community of practice. Acceptable evidence may include one or more screenshots showing substantive participation. Students should not submit more than five images for any single submission.

Course Policies

Instructor and Student Communication

The instructor will generally respond to email within 24 hours. Canvas assignment comments may require up to 48 hours. Assignment feedback will generally be posted within 48 hours after submission.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to remain active in Canvas and complete all required assignments and examinations by the final course deadline. Students should notify the instructor promptly when illness or other extenuating circumstances interfere with participation.

Grades of Incomplete

A student in good standing may petition for an Incomplete only when extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control prevent completion of course requirements. Any approved Incomplete must include an alternative grade and a written completion plan consistent with University policy.

Writing and APA Style

Written assignments must follow APA 7th edition style. Students must provide appropriate in-text citations and a reference list whenever they use direct quotations, paraphrases, summaries, or outside research.

Academic Conduct

Students are expected to follow the standards of academic honesty and conduct described in the Chaminade University Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty may result in academic and disciplinary consequences.

Disability Access

Students seeking accommodations should contact Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning. For information, email ada@chaminade.edu or call 808-739-8305.

Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University is committed to a safe and respectful learning environment. Faculty members are required to report disclosures that fall under University Title IX reporting obligations. Current policies and support resources are available through the University's Title IX and compliance offices.

Student Support Resources

Sullivan Family Library: Research support and access to scholarly literature.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring, writing assistance, and accessibility services. tutoring@chaminade.edu | 808-739-8305

Purdue OWL: Writing, paper organization, and APA-style guidance.

Chaminade IT Help Desk: Canvas and technology support. helpdesk@chaminade.edu | 808-735-4855

Appendix: Scientific Method Definitions

The methods of science are tools used to obtain knowledge about phenomena. The scientific method is a set of assumptions and rules for collecting and evaluating data. These rules support a standard, systematic method of investigation designed to reduce bias. Central to the scientific method is the collection of data, which allows investigators to test ideas empirically.

Science is a mode of controlled inquiry used to develop an objective, effective, and credible way of knowing. Scientific inquiry seeks to advance knowledge, make discoveries, establish relationships among events, develop theories, and support predictions.

A theory is a broad body of interconnected propositions about how some portion of the world operates. A hypothesis is a more specific proposition that may be derived from a theory or from an initial research question. Research may support or fail to support a hypothesis; it does not directly prove a theory.

Scientific research has four general goals: to describe behavior, predict behavior, determine causes of behavior, and understand or explain behavior. Replication and the accumulation of evidence strengthen confidence in research findings.