QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Introduction

This guideline outlines the structure and expectations for submitting a high-quality quantitative research proposal. All submissions must demonstrate methodological rigor, be grounded in appropriate theoretical frameworks, and adhere to ethical research standards. Submissions must follow APA 7th edition guidelines and have a word count between 2,500 and 3,500 words. Please attach your research instrument (e.g., survey questionnaire) in either .DOC or .PDF format.

Provisional Research Title

The project title must clearly convey the essence of the study by identifying the broad topic area, the specific focal issue, the institutional or contextual setting, and the chosen research methodology. It should be concise yet informative, making it easy to understand the research scope at a glance.

Proponents

Indicate the full names and academic or administrative designations of up to three researchers affiliated with New Era University. These individuals must be directly involved in the planning, implementation, and reporting of the study.

Background of the Study

This section presents a structured narrative that starts broadly and gradually narrows to the specific topic. It must justify the significance of the study by addressing why it matters and how it contributes to filling gaps in current knowledge.

Research Problem

The research problem must be stated in a concise, direct manner. This section should clearly define the core issue, dilemma, or gap in the literature or institutional practice that the study will address. Ideally, it should be articulated in one or two sentences that highlight the need for empirical investigation.

Research Questions

This section should present the guiding questions of the study in a logical and coherent manner. Each research question must be specific, measurable, and answerable through a quantitative approach. A typical proposal may include two to four well-formulated questions that align with the objectives and theoretical framework of the study.

Hypotheses

Both null and alternative hypotheses must be explicitly stated. The null hypothesis (H_o) represents the assumption that there is no statistically significant effect or relationship between the variables under investigation. The alternative hypothesis (H_1), on the other hand, posits the existence of a significant association

or difference. These hypotheses should be aligned with the research questions and must be testable using quantitative statistical procedures.

Theoretical Framework

This section requires a brief explanation of the theoretical foundation or model that informs the study. The chosen theory should provide a conceptual basis for understanding the relationship between the variables. It must be clearly named, briefly described, and justified in terms of its relevance to the research context.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework must visually and logically represent the key variables of the study and their assumed interrelationships. It should clearly distinguish between independent, dependent, and any mediating or confounding variables. A labeled diagram is highly recommended to show directional or causal links among variables, and should be referenced accordingly in the narrative.

Significance of the Study

In this section, articulate the practical and academic value of the research. The explanation should clarify how the results of the study will benefit multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to the academic community, institutional policymakers, students, school administrators, and future researchers. It should also connect the expected contributions of the study to the initial problem statement and indicate how it advances knowledge, policy, or practice at NEU and beyond.

Methodology

The methodology section outlines the systematic procedures that will be employed to conduct the study, ensuring the validity, reliability, and objectivity of the findings. This section is organized into six interrelated components: the research approach, research design, sampling technique, data collection instruments, data collection procedures, and data analysis plan.

Research Design

The specific research design to be employed will depend on the objective of the study. For example, if the study seeks to measure the association between two continuous variables without manipulating them, a correlational design is most appropriate. In contrast, if the goal is to compare group differences or test causal relationships under controlled conditions, quasi-experimental or experimental designs may be considered. The design must be clearly stated and justified, followed by a clear definition of the study's variables. The independent variable refers to the factor that is presumed to influence or predict the outcome. The dependent variable represents the response or effect that is measured. Confounding variables, if identified, are those that might distort the observed relationship and must be accounted for either through design control or statistical adjustment.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sampling technique describes how participants will be selected from the broader population. The target population must be identified precisely, such as all undergraduate students enrolled in a specific college or program within New Era University. To ensure sufficient statistical power and validity, the sample size must be calculated using appropriate statistical software such as G*Power. The computation should take into account the expected effect size, the alpha level (typically set at 0.05), and the desired statistical power (commonly set at 0.80). Once determined, the sampling method—whether simple random, stratified, systematic, or cluster—must be clearly described along with the rationale for its use. The source of the population list or sampling frame, such as a registrar's enrollment database, must also be specified to ensure transparency.

Data Collection Instruments

The instrument used for data collection should be appropriate to the research questions and variables. Typically, this may include a structured survey questionnaire, a checklist, or a standardized assessment tool. The process of validating the instrument must be described in detail. Content validity may be established through expert review, while construct validity may be supported through factor analysis or related methods. Reliability must also be demonstrated, typically through pilot testing, and may be assessed using measures such as Cronbach's alpha to ensure internal consistency. The proposal must also address potential threats to internal validity, including history, maturation, instrumentation, and testing effects. Additionally, it is essential to consider issues of external validity by evaluating the representativeness of the sample and the generalizability of findings to real-world contexts.

Variables

Describe dependent, independent, and/or confounding variables

Data Collection Procedures

The data collection procedures describe the chronological steps to be taken to gather data in an ethical and systematic manner. If necessary, a pilot test of the instrument will be conducted to ensure clarity and reliability. Once finalized, the instrument will be distributed to the target participants using either paper-based or digital platforms, depending on the accessibility and convenience of the respondents. Data will be collected within a clearly defined period and closely monitored to ensure completeness and accuracy. After collection, responses will be encoded and verified to ensure data integrity. The specific location of data collection, such as NEU campuses or online portals, must be identified, and any issues related to participant access and consent must be addressed thoroughly.

Data Analysis Plan

This section should explain how each research question will be addressed through appropriate statistical tools. The description should include the purpose of each analysis, the specific test to be used (e.g., Pearson correlation, t-test, ANOVA, regression), and the justification for its selection. For example, correlational studies may use Pearson's r to determine the strength of association between continuous variables, while group differences may be analyzed using independent samples t-tests or analysis of variance (ANOVA). Predictive models may employ linear regression analysis. Instrument validation should include internal consistency reliability using Cronbach's alpha. The proposal must specify the statistical software to be used, such as SPSS, R, JASP, or equivalent, depending on the research team's expertise and institutional availability.

Ethical Considerations

This section should demonstrate how the study complies with ethical research standards. Informed consent must be obtained from participants prior to data collection. Participation should be voluntary, with the right to withdraw at any time. Measures must be in place to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of participant responses. Data should be stored securely and used solely for academic purposes.

Expected Outcomes & Implications

The final section should summarize the key outcomes expected from the research. These include a detailed statistical analysis of the relationships among variables, data-driven conclusions, and empirically grounded recommendations for policy or practice. The study should also aim to contribute to theoretical development and be positioned for dissemination through academic journals, conferences, or institutional reports. The output should align with the problem statement and be impactful at both institutional and disciplinary levels.

Research Timeline

When do you plan to finalize the survey instrument?
When do you intend to administer the survey?
What is your target date for completing data analysis and interpretation?
When do you expect to finish and submit your final research report?

Projected Budget

Provide a breakdown of your projected research budget (cost for printing questionnaires, miscellaneous expenses, data analysis)

References

List all the sources cited in your proposal.

Submission Reminders

Follow APA 7th edition for all citations and references.
Proposal word count must be between 2,500 and 3,500 words.
Submit your research proposal to: https://forms.gle/giA8bZ2JoujEZLBM6 or scan the QR code below: