

Research Methods in Human Resource Development Minor

The Department of Agricultural Education at The Ohio State University has a long tradition of providing a service function to graduate students from across the university to prepare them for conducting research into various human activity systems. Over the past couple of decades, students have enrolled in the courses from nearly 90 of the 115 graduate programs/academic areas at OSU with between 300 and 500 students enrolling annually in the initial course in the sequence, Agr Educ 885.

Good research is good research, no matter what the discipline. Basic tenets in the selection of method, design, instrumentation/measurement, and data analysis are needed by those who purport to conduct quantitative research to add to the scholarly knowledge base of their discipline. Competencies are developed that are more holistic than just quantitative method (logical positivism) and range all the way to action/applied research. Students from the series have won numerous awards for excellence in research and currently constitute some of the leading scholars in their discipline.

An important component of any graduate education is the creation of scholars. One dimension of scholarship is discovery. Learning how to conduct valid inquiry to advance knowledge and move a discipline "down the road to knowing" is paramount in preparing future scholars, as is developing the ability to critique/consume research. These abilities are developed through the series. Literally dozens of former students have taken sufficient courses to constitute a minor and this Graduate Minor will officially authenticate the practices already being followed. The purpose of this Minor is to continue to develop these competencies and permit them to be more fully documented through an appropriate designation on transcripts.

Minor Curriculum

The required courses for the minor will include the following. The frequency of the offering of the courses is purposeful to provide students with the greatest flexibility in designing, planning and scheduling their Minor.

1. Agr Edr 885, Research Methods, 3 credit hours, offered Au, Wi, Sp & Su Quarters
2. Agr Educ 886, Research Design, 3 credit hours, offered Au, Wi & Sp Quarters
3. Agr Educ 887, Analysis and Interpretation of Data, 3 credit hours, offered Au&Sp Quarters
4. Agr Educ 888, Instrumentation and Procedures for Data Collection, 3 credit (hours), offered Au & Sp Quarters
5. Agr Educ 995, Seminar in Research : Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis (Principal Component Analysis, Factor Analysis and Cluster Analysis), 3 credit hours, offered Sp Quarter
6. Agr Educ 995, Seminar in Research: Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis (Multiple Regression, Logistic Regression, Discriminant Analysis, and Canonical Correlation), 3 credit hours, offered Au Quarter

Total required credit hours for the Minor: 18

Optional Courses

Agr Educ 770, Evaluation, 3 credit hours, offered Wi Quarter

Agr Educ 795.01, Contemporary Problems: Writing for Professional Dissemination, 1 credit hour

Agr Educ 993, Individual Studies: Teaching Research Methods in Higher Education, 3 credit hours, offered by arrangement

Administratively, the Graduate Minor will be handled by the chair of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) for the Department of Human and Community Resource Development (HCRD). Students will obtain the Graduate Program Minor Program Form from the HCRD GSC. The form lists the required courses. Once completed, copies of the form will be given to the student, the Graduate School, the chair of the GSC of the student's home department and the original goes to the chair of the HCRD GSC. These forms will be due during the first two weeks of any quarter.

Changes in the proposed plan of study must be approved by the HCRD GSC. Further, all procedural requirements of the Graduate School for an approved minor must be fulfilled. Students failing to follow these procedures will lose the transcript designation for the Minor.

Students must obtain at least a "B" grade in each required course, or "S" in an elective course with that grading designation. This Minor is not available for students with majors in the Department of Human and Community Resource Development.

The availability of the courses for the minor are distributed annually through a flier sent to nearly 400 advisers (of former students) on campus, and to other department and college offices who conduct research in Human Activity Systems (Social and Behavioral Science). The HCRD will accept up to 100 students in this minor.