Rationale for development: EDUC 594 Research Evaluation and Design.

Our original course sequence included ED595 and ED599. In ED 595 students went through the process of developing a research proposal. As the class was taught at the time, it was a one-week "intensive" class and all we really had time to do was to teach students about research proposals and their content. Students had limited instruction on finding and evaluating research literature, various research designs, APA style. Other important topics such as basic statistical analysis and qualitative research were almost completely ignored.

The solution was to develop ED594 as a way to cover goals and objectives which need to be accomplished prior to writing a proposal. We now have time to address APA style, literature searches, evaluation of research, several quantitative and qualitative methods and introduce basic statistics by covering correlations and t tests. At the end of the current course, instead of completing a research proposal, students use topics covered in the class to develop a research "sketch" which is a precursor to a formal written proposal covered in ED 595.

ED595 now concentrates on the writing of the proposal. Incidental to that general topic, students cover human subject research (including human subject certification), ethics, and policies related to institutional review. At the end of the course, students produce a formal written research proposal.

For students considering advanced research, ED599 is available as an option which supports the student in gaining IRB approval and in actually conducting the research proposed in ED595.

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