**Discussion Forum** | Unit 1 Forum (Week 1)

**Welcome to Unit 1 - Course Introduction - Thinking about Research: Getting Started**

A warm welcome to the course. This week is going to be spent acquainting yourself with each other; getting to know those that are new to you; organizing your study schedule; reviewing the course expectations, and reading ahead.

We will be exploring some of the terminology and theory around research and challenging some of the myths associated with this form of critical thinking and problem-solving. As noted in the Leedy & Ormrod textbook, research is "a systematic process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information (data) in order to increase our understanding of a phenomenon about which we are interested or concerned" (p. 2). This week will begin the process of laying the foundation for our exploration of the research process.

My philosophy of teaching Master students is that as adult learners you can evaluate for yourself where your gaps in knowledge are and where you want to focus and expand your learning. The reading assignments are to provide basic theory and content but are guidelines only. You are encouraged to read and review different literature to bring in other viewpoints and evidence to the discussions and evaluate the theory in areas applicable to you.

It is very important to review the course study guide to review course expectations. Please also review the assignment section on the course home page to ensure you know the assignment due dates; have reviewed ALL grading rubrics for all assignments and participation requirements; and are clear of assignment criteria and expectations.

APA scholarly writing is the standard and it is expected all assignments will be formatted according to APA principles and rules, unless otherwise noted. Incidents of plagiarism, or work that lacks academic integrity may result in failure of an assignment or the course.

Late assignments will only be accepted with the approval from the instructor prior to due date and are only granted for extenuating circumstances. Any unapproved late assignments will receive a grade reduction of 5% per calendar day late.

Weekly Participation is **mandatory** with a minimal requirement of TWO postings per week to the discussion board, one original and one individual follow-up to peers’ comments.

* The original discussion should be 200-300 words and referenced with additional literature **(please post by the end of Friday each week)**
* The follow-up responses should be at least 100 words incorporating additional literature (if appropriate but not required) and promoting critical thinking **(please post by Monday)**
* Questions will be posed at the beginning of the week to initiate discussion.
* Postings will be evaluated based on quality, timeliness and quantity

Participation is an integral part of graduate study. I hold the philosophy that each student brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the learning environment. Sharing of ideas, thoughts, opinions, and experiences through discussions are highly prized learning activities. Therefore, participation is mandatory. Each weekly discussion starts on Wednesday and ends on Tuesday. Please try to post your discussions within these timeframes to ensure full engagement in the weekly topic. As noted it is expected that each of you post two discussions per week, one an original post in support of the content/topic of the week and one in response to your peers.

It is recommended that postings take place as early in the week as possible to allow sufficient

time to develop the discussions. If for some reason you are unable to do this due to “life,” please

post as soon as possible. It is expected that your original discussion will be posted **NO later than Saturday** to allow thoughtful discussion, please organize your time to accomplish this.

Please avoid the trend of late or early postings as this does not meet the expectations of active and timely participation and will affect your participation grade.

It is expected that your postings will be of substantial quality. This may include incorporating

additional literature to expand the topic; posing challenging questions to each other to advance

critical thinking; and truly analyze and synthesize the topic through providing examples of

how you may apply the concepts to your work environment. Just agreeing with each other and being supportive is not sufficient – the goal is to advance and challenge thought.

**Let's get started**:

Go to the Introduction Forum and introduce yourself to the class. Comments on your past involvement with research are encouraged.

Participate in the discussion board with a minimal requirement of TWO postings per week to the discussion board, one original and one individual follow-up to peers’ comments. The original discussion should be 200-300 words and referenced with additional literature. The follow-up responses should be at least 100 words incorporating additional literature (if appropriate but not required) and promoting critical thinking.

Use the following questions to begin your discussion in the **Unit 1 Forum** about research and its usefulness in your practice. Remember that the idea here is to use the questions as a catalyst for discussion, not just a list of items to which everyone responds.

1. What is research? Can all questions be answered by research? Why or why not?
2. What are the purposes of research?
3. How has research influenced your practice setting?
4. What is meant by the research process?

Application Questions

1. Identify an intervention that you use in your own practice. (This could be anything that you use with clients, students, staff - a teaching program, massage therapy, counseling approach, an exercise program). Discuss your rationale for using the intervention. Is it based upon research evidence? Contribute any evidence sources or links to the Resources Forum.