

OBSSR Web-Based Learning Opportunities

Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Interactive Textbook

Under an OBSSR-contract The New England Research Institutes (NERI) has developed an interactive, online course on research methods and tools for researchers engaging in behavioral and social science (BSS) research on health-related topics. To view this free course, go to www.esourceresearch.org. The project aims to (1) demonstrate the potential of BSS research to enhance biomedical research, (2) serve as a resource center for the most current and high quality BSS research methods; (3) reveal how to easily and efficiently obtain authoritative answers to methodological questions, and (4) identify consistent and rigorous quality standards for the research community. Recognized international experts in their fields developed the modules for this web-based learning site. Additional modules will be added.

Determining Appropriate Methods

John B. McKinlay, PhD

The Concept of 'Science' in the Behavioral and Social Sciences

Jeffrey Coulter, PhD

Theory Development and Construction

Stephen Turner, PhD

Concepts in Sample Surveys

Sarah M. Nusser, PhD and Michael D. Larsen, PhD

Principles of Social Survey Data Collection

Steve Woodland, PhD

Administrative Data Systems in Behavioral and Social Science Research on Health and Aging

Vincent Mor, PhD

A Reporting Checklist for Observational Studies

Richard Berk, PhD

Using Qualitative Methods to Study Health and Illness

David Silverman, PhD

Conversation Analysis as an Approach to the Medical Encounter

John Heritage, PhD

Integrating Software and Qualitative Analysis

Eben Weitzman, PhD

Clinical Trials

Duolao Wang, PhD and Ameet Bakhai, MD, MRCP

Cluster Unit Randomized Trials

Allan Donner, PhD

Multi-level Modeling: A Conceptual and Methodological Overview

S. V. Subramanian, PhD

Operationalizing, Measuring and Defining Psychosocial Variables

Keith Widaman, PhD

Ensuring Conceptual Cultural and Equivalence

Leo Morales, PhD

From Quality of Life to Patient-Reported Outcomes

Donald L. Patrick, PhD and Gordon Guyatt, PhD

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Evidence-Based Behavioral Practice

Also under a contract with the OBSSR, the Interdisciplinary Council for Training in Evidence-based Behavioral Practice (EBBP) has established a website and training modules at <http://www.ebbp.org>. A goal of the EBBP project is to develop online learning tools to help behavioral practitioners and students integrate research and practice in real-world conditions. Three training modules are currently available: The EBBP Process, Searching for Evidence, and Introduction to Systematic Reviews.

The EBBP Process module aims to enhance the skills of behavioral interventionists from a variety of health care disciplines to find, appraise, and apply evidence to improve the health of individuals, communities, and other populations. In Searching for Evidence, behavioral health professionals will learn about available on-line resources and develop skills to more effectively search for health care evidence. In Systematic Reviews, evidence-users will learn to appraise the quality of systematic reviews, and evidence-creators will learn the basic steps in conducting a systematic review. Instructors who use the modules or other EBBP materials in their courses are also invited to share syllabi, conference presentations, and other resources in the new EBBP Teaching Resource Library at <http://ebbp.org/syllabus.php>.

EBBP.org training materials are based on an analysis of the professional competencies required to engage in the EBBP process. The EBBP Council white paper describing these competencies, available at <http://www.ebbp.org/competencies.html>, is a singular accomplishment. Council members representing the disciplines of medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, public health, and information sciences came together to delineate a harmonized approach to the evidence-based practice process across the major professions that deliver behavioral interventions.

Genetics for Social and Behavioral Scientists (In preparation. Available in first half of 2011)

OBSSR has contracted with the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics (NCHPEG) to develop a web-based educational program in genetics for social and behavioral science researchers. The goal of this program is to increase genetics knowledge through the related objective of improving genetics literacy for social scientists. The course will address two overarching topics: 1) introduction to genetic aspects of social and behavioral phenomena, and 2) evaluation and application of genetics research in social and behavioral science. The content of these modules will be demonstrated through the use of simulated research questions. The focus will be on the concepts and methods of genetics, not on the analysis of data. We expect the course to be available on the OBSSR website in early- to mid- 2011.