

BEHV 4006 RESEARCH METHODS SEMINAR

Credit Points 20

Legacy Code 100983

Coordinator Abhijatya Dhar (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Abhijatya Dhar/>)

Description This is a 20 credit point year-long subject taken over two terms (10 credit points in each term). The aim of this subject is to advance students' awareness, and critical appreciation of interrelated research processes: epistemological frameworks of research; the appropriate interpretation of research data; ethical issues in the conduct of research; the cultural, social, economic, and political contexts of research; and Indigenous Australian knowledges and research practices. Skills will be consolidated in the use of quantitative and qualitative research designs, methods, and analysis techniques to address research questions in psychology and the behavioural sciences.

School Psychology

Discipline Psychology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 4 subject

Equivalent Subjects BEHV 4002 - Empirical Research Methods Seminar

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in programs 1796 Graduate Diploma of Psychology, 1865 Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), 1860 Bachelor of Psychological Studies (Honours), 1905 Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours), 1504 Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) Honours, or 1500/1834 Bachelor of Psychology. Students enrolled in 1500/1834 Bachelor of Psychology or 1865 Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) must have successfully completed 240 credit points.

Assumed Knowledge

Undergraduate subjects in research methods for psychology including an advanced research methods subject.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critique the philosophical and methodological differences between qualitative and quantitative research ([APAC Graduate Attributes \(GA\) 2.1](#))
2. Apply qualitative methods and analysis techniques to psychological data ([APAC GA 2.1, 2.2](#))
3. Apply multivariate quantitative techniques to psychological data using quantitative data analysis software ([APAC GA 2.1, 2.3](#))
4. Differentiate between key epistemological stances in psychology and articulate their alignment to methodological approaches ([APAC GA 2.1](#))
5. Propose ethical research approaches in cultural, social, economic, and political contexts, including from Indigenous Australian perspectives ([APAC GA 2.1, 2.2](#))

6. Communicate research processes and findings in written reports according to the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association ([APAC GA 2.1](#))

Subject Content

The research process

Ontological and epistemological bases of different approaches to research

Interpreting research data and research results

Overview of qualitative research methods, with the option for advanced instruction in selected methods (e.g., discourse analysis)

Overview of quantitative research methods, with options for advanced instruction of selected methods (e.g., factor analysis)

Statistical significance, effect size, and power analysis

Ethical issues in research

The social, economic, and political context of research, including the professional responsibilities of researchers

Communicating research: writing research proposals, theses, dissertations, and journal articles.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Report	2000 words	25	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	2 hours	25	N	Individual	Y
Report	2000 words	25	N	Individual	Y
Final Exam	2 hours	25	N	Individual	N

Prescribed Texts

- American Psychological Association (Ed.) (2020). Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Emilee Gilbert (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Emilee Gilbert/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV4006_25-AUT_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact Emilee Gilbert (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Emilee Gilbert/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV4006_25-AUT_KW_1#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

Subject Contact Emilee Gilbert (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Emilee Gilbert/>)

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Spring (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Abhijatya Dhar (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Abhijatya.Dhar/>)

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV4006_25-SPR_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact Abhijatya Dhar (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Abhijatya.Dhar/>)

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