

Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
PhD. Comprehensive Examination in Research Methods and Statistics, Fall 2016
Day One of the Exam, November 2, 2016 – 8:30am to 12:45pm

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer one question from each of the two sections below. Please notify the proctor when you are finished. Please note: Once a student takes possession of the examination at the start of the exam period, this constitutes an attempt at taking the exam, regardless of whether the student completes the exam, hands in the any answers, or remains for the full exam period.

I. DATA GATHERING METHODS

1. A sizable portion of nonresponse can be due to poor construction of the survey instrument. Describe as many ways as you can think of that survey construction can affect non-response, and what you would do to try to avoid these problems.
2. With quantitative data of various types, there exist ways to assess the reliability and validity of measures. First, with qualitative data, how do you assess the reliability and validity of measures? Second, describe the data that you would need to collect in a qualitative study to help ensure that your measures were reliable and valid? Third, describe the types of analyses that you would conduct to demonstrate the reliability and validity of the qualitative data measures.

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

3. Explain as many advantages as you can of experimental research designs over quasi-experimental or correlational research designs.
4. Propose a study that would provide a credible assessment of the impact of a community policing program in Tallahassee on crime rates. In answering this question, (1) briefly describe community policing, (2) describe and defend the number of areas that your study would include, (3) describe and defend the data and measures that you would use, (4) defend the analysis plan that you would use, and (5) identify the limitations of your design and why it is preferable to alternative designs.