

Faculty and Student Research Fund Rubric Criteria

(1) Objectives clearly stated

- Primary purpose of research clearly stated
- Well crafted research questions
- Explanation of how answering the proposed research questions fulfills the primary purpose of the research
- Research questions that are compelling, make sense and are feasible to explore in the scope of the proposed research
- Consistent focus on the objectives throughout the proposal: a successful proposal will be consistent, meaning the research questions, data collection and analysis clearly and tightly relate to the objectives

(2) Adequate theoretical/conceptual base

- Review of relevant and recent literature in support of the purpose of the study and the research questions posed
- This review is efficient and targeted so that a reviewer not specialized in the area develops sufficient interest and expertise about the topics under investigation

(3) Appropriateness of methods, techniques or approach

- Description of sample (e.g. size, how selected, etc.)
- Description of instruments, measures and/or assessments and the variables or concepts they aim to investigate (including technical quality of instruments if appropriate)
- Procedures used for data analysis described in detail including how the variables and/or central concepts will be considered in the analysis
- Approach to ensure external and internal validity
- Rationale for key methodological choices
- Proposed methods and / or approaches are related to the methods used by others studying similar topics

(4) Reasonableness of the anticipated conclusions in light of findings and previous work

- Are the anticipated conclusions reasonable given the purpose of the research and the proposed methodology?
- How do the anticipated findings fit with previously published research on related topics? Do the expected findings confirm, extend or refute these findings? Why?
- Link anticipated conclusions to the literature review as well as any limitations to the methods/sample, etc.

(5) Educational importance of the study / expected contribution;

- How does this study contribute to the existing literature?
- How will the proposed study influence practice and/or research in education?
- Why should educators and educational researchers care about this study?