

# EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Competencies for Analysis and Applications

ELEVENTH EDITION

GLOBAL EDITION

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# Preface

## NEW TO THIS EDITION

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Like the tenth edition, the eleventh edition reflects a combination of both unsolicited and solicited input. Positive feedback suggested aspects of the text that should not be changed—the writing style and the focus on ethical practice, for example. Those aspects remain. However, for the first time in many years, the Table of Contents reflects a new organization for the book. Part I, Foundational Concepts and Processes retains the same six chapters from the 10<sup>th</sup> edition, but Part II, Research Designs, includes all of the research design chapters that were previously separated into quantitative research designs and qualitative research designs. This reflects our decision to provide a comprehensive discussion of all the research designs before discussing data analysis and interpretation. Part III, Working with Quantitative and Qualitative Data brings together discussions of descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and qualitative data collection and analysis. The intent of this new section is to provide a comprehensive section on both quantitative and qualitative data analysis and interpretation that reflects the increasing application of mixed methods designs in educational research. Part IV, Reporting and Critiquing Research effectively remains the same.

Content changes reflect the inclusion of new topics and the expansion or clarification of existing topics. There are many improvements in this edition, and we describe the more significant highlights here:

- All research articles have been annotated and now include descriptive annotations (what is the researcher doing) and reflective/evaluative annotations (how did the researcher's decisions support or challenge the chosen research design). These annotations will scaffold the readers' understanding of the content of the chapters to the sample journal articles.
- Chapter 1 (and subsequent chapters throughout the book) include a new "Write Like a Researcher" Feature that have been designed specifically with the purpose of encouraging new researchers to start writing early in the research process.
- Chapter 3 has undergone significant revision because of the way technology has affected the literature review process. Changes include a Digital Research Tools feature on Google Book and Google Scholar, step-by-step directions for an ERIC EBSCO search that maximizes the power of university library consortium agreements to identify fully online journal articles, a "Write Like a Researcher" feature that encourages new researchers to start their writing of the review of related literature very early in the research process.
- Chapter 8 on experimental research has been significantly updated to reflect 21<sup>st</sup> century discussions about validity, effect size, power, and quasi-experimental designs.
- Chapter 15 on mixed methods designs has been significantly updated to reflect the expansion of three basic and three advanced mixed methods designs currently being used in educational research settings.
- The chapters on Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (now Chapters 17 and 18 in Part III Working with Quantitative and Qualitative Data) have been updated to reflect new versions of SPSS and Excel.

In addition, we have added new tables and figures throughout the text. Every chapter has been edited and updated. References have been updated. Appendix A that historically contained tables related to random numbers, and so on, has been deleted and replaced with links throughout the book to online sources that provide the same information.

## PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

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This text is designed primarily for use in the introductory course in educational research that is a basic requirement for many graduate programs.

Because the topic coverage of the text is relatively comprehensive, it may be easily adapted for use in either a senior-level undergraduate course or a more advanced graduate-level course.

The philosophy that guided the development of the current and previous editions of this text was the conviction that an introductory research course should be more oriented toward skill and application than toward theory. Thus, the purpose of this text is for students to become familiar with research mainly at a “how-to” skill and application level. The authors do not mystify students with theoretical and statistical jargon. They strive to provide a down-to-earth approach that helps students acquire the skills and knowledge required of a competent consumer and producer of educational research. The emphasis is not just on what the student knows but also on what the student can do with what he or she knows. It is recognized that being a “good” researcher involves more than the acquisition of skills and knowledge; in any field, important research is usually produced by those who through experience have acquired insights, intuitions, and strategies related to the research process. Research of any worth, however, is rarely conducted in the absence of basic research skills and knowledge. A fundamental assumption of this text is that the competencies required of a competent consumer of research overlap considerably with those required of a competent producer of research. A person is in a much better position to evaluate the work of others after she or he has performed the major tasks involved in the research process.

## ORGANIZATION AND STRATEGY

The overall strategy of the text is to promote students’ attainment of a degree of expertise in research through the acquisition of knowledge and by involvement in the research process.

### Organization

In the eleventh edition, Part I “Foundational Concepts and Processes” includes discussion of the scientific and disciplined inquiry approach and its application in education. The main steps in the research process and the purpose and methods of the various research designs are discussed. In Part I,

each student selects and delineates a research problem of interest that has relevance to his or her professional area. Throughout the rest of the text, the student then simulates the procedures that would be followed in conducting a study designed to investigate the research problem; each chapter develops a specific skill or set of skills required for the execution of such a research design. Specifically, the student learns about the application of the scientific method in education and the ethical considerations that affect the conduct of any educational research (Chapter 1), identifies a research problem and formulates hypotheses (Chapter 2), conducts a review of the related literature (Chapter 3), develops a research plan (Chapter 4), selects and defines samples (Chapter 5), and evaluates and selects measuring instruments (Chapter 6). Throughout these chapters are parallel discussions of quantitative and qualitative research constructs. This organization, with increased emphasis on ethical considerations in the conduct of educational research and the skills needed to conduct a comprehensive review of related literature, allows the student to see the similarities and differences in research designs and to understand more fully how the nature of the research question influences the selection of a research design. Part II “Research Designs” includes description and discussion of different quantitative research designs, qualitative research designs, mixed methods research designs, and action research designs. Part III “Working with Quantitative and Qualitative Data” includes two chapters devoted to the statistical approaches and the analysis and interpretation of quantitative data, and two chapters describing the collection, analysis, and interpretation of qualitative data. Part IV “Reporting and Critiquing Research” focuses on helping the student prepare a research report, either for the completion of a degree requirement or for publication in a refereed journal, and an opportunity for the student to apply the skills and knowledge acquired in Parts I through III to critique a research report.

### Strategy

This text represents more than just a textbook to be incorporated into a course; it is a total instructional system that includes stated learning outcomes, instruction, and procedures for evaluating

each outcome. The instructional strategy of the system emphasizes the demonstration of skills and individualization within this structure. Each chapter begins with a list of learning outcomes that describes the knowledge and skills that the student should gain from the chapter. In many instances, learning outcomes may be assessed either as written exercises submitted by students or by tests, whichever the instructor prefers. In most chapters, a task to be performed is described next. Tasks require students to demonstrate that they can perform particular research skills. Because each student works with a different research problem, each student demonstrates the competency required by a task as it applies to his or her own problem. With the exception of Chapter 1, an individual chapter is directed toward the attainment of only one task (occasionally, students have a choice between a quantitative and qualitative task).

Text discussion is intended to be as simple and straightforward as possible. Whenever feasible, procedures are presented as a series of steps, and concepts are explained in terms of illustrative examples. In a number of cases, relatively complex topics or topics beyond the scope of the text are presented at a very elementary level, and students are directed to other sources for additional, in-depth discussion. There is also a degree of intentional repetition; a number of concepts are discussed in different contexts and from different perspectives. Also, at the risk of eliciting more than a few groans, an attempt has been made to sprinkle the text with touches of humor—a hallmark of this text spanning three decades—and perhaps best captured by the pictures and quotes that open each chapter. Each chapter includes a detailed, often lengthy summary with headings and subheadings directly parallel to those in the chapter. The summaries are designed to facilitate both the review and location of related text discussion. Finally, each chapter (or part) concludes with suggested criteria for evaluating the associated task and with an example of the task produced by a former introductory educational research

student. Full-length articles, reprinted from the educational research literature, appear at the ends of all chapters presenting research designs and serve as illustrations of “real-life” research using that design. For the 11<sup>th</sup> edition all of these articles have been annotated with descriptive and evaluative annotations.

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

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The following resources are available for instructors to download from [www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/mills](http://www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/mills). Download the supplement you need. If you require assistance in downloading any resources, contact your Pearson representative.

### Instructor's Resource Manual With Test Bank

The *Instructor's Resource Manual with Test Bank* is divided into two parts. The Instructor's Resource Manual contains, for each chapter, suggested activities that have been effectively used in Educational Research courses, strategies for teaching, and selected resources to supplement the textbook content. The test bank contains multiple-choice items covering the content of each chapter, newly updated for this edition, and can be printed and edited or used with TestGen<sup>®</sup>.

### TestGen<sup>®</sup>

TestGen is a powerful test generator available exclusively from Pearson Education publishers. You install TestGen on your personal computer and create your own tests for classroom testing and for other specialized delivery options, such as over a local area network or on the web. A test bank, which is also called a Test Item File (TIF), typically contains a large set of test items, organized by chapter and ready for your use in creating a test, based on the associated textbook material. Assessments may be created for both print and testing online.

## PowerPoint® Slides

The PowerPoint® slides highlight key concepts and summarize text content to help students understand, organize, and remember core concepts and ideas. They are organized around chapter learning outcomes to help instructors structure class presentations.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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I sincerely thank everyone who provided input for the development of this edition. The following individuals made thoughtful and detailed suggestions and comments for improving the eleventh edition: M.H. Clark, University of Central Florida; Anne Dahlman, Minnesota State University, Mankato; Dwight R. Gard, Texas Tech University; Jann W. MacInnes, University of Florida; Lauren Saenz, Boston College; and Rishi Sriram, Baylor University. These reviewers contributed greatly to the eleventh edition and their efforts are very much appreciated.

This edition benefited from the efforts of two editors: Kevin Davis and Gail Gottfried. A few words of thanks are in order here. For nearly 20 years I have been fortunate to work with Kevin Davis, Vice President and Publisher at Pearson. Kevin gave me my textbook start in 1997 when he offered me a contract to write *Action Research: A Guide for the Teacher Researcher* (now in its fifth edition). Kevin has taught me a great deal about writing, and I will always be indebted to him for trusting me with stewardship of this wonderful text. I have also been fortunate to work with my Developmental Editor, Gail Gottfried, for a number of years spanning both my action research and educational research books. My virtual relationship with Gail is remarkable. While we have never met face-to-face I trust and respect all the contributions she has made to my work over the years. I benefit greatly from Gail's creative thinking about how to make an educational research textbook meaningful and fun. Also

at Pearson, Lauren Carlson ably shepherded the manuscript through development and production, responded to my cries for help, and kept me on track. An author does not take on the task of a major revision of a text of this magnitude without the commitment and support of excellent editors. Kevin and Gail were instrumental in the development of this edition and I sincerely thank them for their professionalism, patience, caring, and sense of humor.

I believe that I have made a positive contribution to this text, now my fourth edition, and added to the wisdom of earlier editions by L. R. Gay and Peter Airasian. Long-time users of the text will still “hear” Lorrie Gay’s voice throughout the text, but increasingly there is an Aussie accent and sense of humor creeping its way into the pages!

I wish to thank my friend and colleague Dr. Ken Kempner (Emeritus Professor, Southern Oregon University) for his thoughtful work on revising the descriptive and inferential statistics chapters and feedback on other quantitative chapters in the text.

Finally, I want to thank my best friend and wife, Dr. Donna Mills (Southern Oregon University), and my son, Jonathan, for their love, support, and patience. Their commitment to my work is always appreciated and never taken for granted. The completion of this edition signals another new era in my life as my son Jonathan completes his undergraduate degree and contemplates work and graduate school, and Donna prepares for retirement after a very successful university career. I continue to suggest to Jonathan that one day he may want to take over my books. While it is safe to say that he is less than excited by the prospect—his undergraduate experiences in the Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon and his study abroad experiences at the University of Oxford have seen his interest in research increase dramatically!

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