



June 2018

Dear Incoming BUSSW Students,

As Chair of the Social Research Department, I would like to welcome you to Boston University School of Social Work. Our program offers entering advanced standing students, who have a strong research methods background, the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency by passing a research examination and then waiving the Research I (SR743) course requirement.

### **Examples of Exam Contents**

The research proficiency exam will assess your understanding of:

- Research questions and hypotheses
- Quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry
- Independent and dependent variables
- Variables' level of measurement
- Measurement reliability and validity
- Instrument construction
- Data collection methods
- Sampling strategies
- Research design
- Threats to internal and external validity
- Single subject design

### **Text Book**

The exam consists of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. To prepare for the exam, we suggest that students review course concepts in the assigned textbook, Engel, R.J. & Schutt, R.J. (2013) *The Practice of Research in Social Work* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) or a comparable text.

### **Important Deadlines**

#### **Exam Option # 1 (Testing Dates August 16-25, 2018)**

Students to email [lmurph@bu.edu](mailto:lmurph@bu.edu) by July 10, 2018

Exam Scheduling opens: July 23, 2018

If you plan to take the exam, you should register for the Research I course (SR743) to reserve a space in the course in case you do not pass the exam.

### **Advance Standing Students**

The decision to take the waiver exam is optional; however, all advanced standing students are REQUIRED to reply to Lisa Murphy no later than July 10 ([lmurph@bu.edu](mailto:lmurph@bu.edu); 617-353-3748) indicating which of the following options you will pursue:

- Option 1: Take August exam with registration for SR743 for the fall semester
- Option 2: Decline the opportunity to take the exam and register for SR743 for the fall

semester.

**Cost of the Exam**

Please be aware of that the exam will be only be given online, and the estimated cost for the exam is \$ 23.00.

**Who to Contact to Obtain the Course Syllabus?**

Please also contact Lisa Murphy, the department administrative assistant ([lmurph@bu.edu](mailto:lmurph@bu.edu)).

**Passing Threshold:**

Students must receive a grade of 75 percent or higher to pass the exam and then enroll directly into the Research II course (SR744).

**Additional Information in regards to online capability:**

A convenient location to you that allows you access to a webcam and high speed internet.

To check internet connection speed go to:

<http://www.bu.edu/tech/services/teaching/lms/blackboard/how-to/connection-test/>

Charlotte Hodges from BU Distance Education Office will be in touch with additional information about scheduling your online exam. Please also review the attached guide on scheduling your exam.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hyeouk Chris Hahm", followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Hyeouk Chris Hahm, Ph.D., LCSW  
Associate Professor & Chair, Research Department  
[hahm@bu.edu](mailto:hahm@bu.edu)