March 2019

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 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. (Please note that the Research Waiver Exam may be taken only once.)

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. (2017) The Practice of Research in Social Work (4th ed.) or a comparable text.

Important Deadlines
Exam Option # 1 (Testing Dates: April 23-29)
Students to email lmurph@bu.edu by: March 15, 2019
Exam Scheduling opens: March 26, 2019

Important Deadlines
Exam Option # 2 (Testing Dates: August 19-25)
Students to email lmurph@bu.edu by: August 1, 2019
Exam Scheduling opens: August 12, 2019
IMPORTANT: 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. If you pass the exam, the Research I course will be waived, but an elective course must be taken in its place. Advanced standing students: Please see special section that follows.

Advanced Standing Students
The decision to take the waiver exam is optional; however, should you take and pass the exam Research I is waived and there will be no need to replace the course.

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).

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,

Hyeouk Chris Hahm, Ph.D., LCSW
Associate Professor & Chair, Research Department
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