



In Assessment and Evaluation, we used our knowledge of research methods to examine real-life situations.

Our first task was to observe the activities in a public place. I chose to visit our local lake, which features a popular walking path, a playground, and a gazebo which is used as a bandstand in the summer. In my 60-minute observation, I learned how

challenging it can be to have the sole responsibility to observe activities and record those observations. After making notes onsite, we were tasked with creating a set of full observational notes, coding the observations, and analyzing the data. This activity was a great demonstration of the difference between sitting on a bench people-watching, and actively conducting research.

The next assignment involved creating a qualitative research proposal, including an introduction, literature review and methods section. I chose to propose a study regarding higher technology use by undergraduate faculty, which aligns with one of my research interests. The experience of creating the proposal and receiving valuable feedback helped to prepare me for the research projects to come in future courses.

The third project in the course involved creating a brief research proposal, including creating a survey instrument, and creating a submission to the IRB. One aspect of this process which I found valuable was requesting permission from a researcher to use her survey instrument. In addition, preparing the IRB form was valuable for my future research. Again, the feedback from this project helped me to improve on my next assignment.

The final project in this course involved preparing a full research proposal, based on the preliminary proposal submitted previously. I found that completing this proposal helped me be more comfortable with the process. The most significant parts of the proposal for me were creating a diagram to help the reader understand the research in simple terms, and creation of a realistic timeline for the research.