

## **REHB 600 Research for Master's Thesis**

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Office Hours: 12:00-1:00 MF/1:00-4:00 W

Other Hours by Appointment Only

### **Catalog Description**

Students who intend to complete a thesis are required to: build on thesis prospects formulated in REHB 599; design and execute the proposed research; analyze the results and write findings in a scholarly manner following the American Psychological Associations Publications Manual (latest edition) and Graduate School Guidelines; and orally defend the thesis.

### **Course Goals**

This course is a continuation of REHB 599 (Supervised Research Project) and is designed to guide students through the stages of development of the thesis. The process of completing the thesis is a collaborative partnership between the student and the thesis committee. During this course, students will receive guidance in connecting the “nuts and bolts” of the thesis. The finished product is the prerogative of the student, committee chair and the general committee members.

### **Student Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Design a research project
2. Conduct the research project
3. Analyze data collected
4. Interpret the results of the study
5. Compare and contrast findings with those of previous studies
6. Present the findings of the study

### **Course Requirements**

Each student is required to conduct the research, write a report of findings and present the report of the study to the thesis committee. The final grade for the course will be assigned upon the completion of the research and approval of the thesis committee. The grade will be based on the quality of the thesis and final of the oral presentation.

**Completion of a research paper or thesis is a requirement for graduation.**

**Responsibilities of the Student:** The student is responsible for finding out and meeting all deadlines established by the Graduate School and the department.

1. The student will select a general topic with the help of the chair.
2. The student will do a literature search to access relevant articles.
3. After reading enough articles to get a sense of the direction in which the field is moving and what needs to be done, the student will refine his/her topic.
4. The student will then do a thorough search the literature. While the chair may help in this endeavor, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to locate all appropriate literature.
5. Once the student has read the relevant literature, she/he will organize the information and outline the literature review.
6. This outline will be submitted to the chairperson for approval.
7. After the outline has been approved, the student may begin writing his/her paper.
8. While the student is writing the paper, she/he should meet with the chairperson on a weekly or biweekly basis. These meetings are to be documented with an annotated statement of accomplishments which is to be signed by both the student and chair.
9. Changes suggested by the chair shall be incorporated into the paper.
10. The student can expect to write a minimum of three drafts of the paper although more may be necessary depending on the student's writing ability.
11. Students writing a thesis will complete the paper through the Method section and have this approved by the chair before submission to the other committee members. Allow two weeks for them to read it.
12. Students writing a thesis will then schedule a prospectus meeting with their committee. The prospectus *must* be approved by the committee before any data are collected. Any changes requested by committee members should be included by the students before the prospectus is approved.
13. Once the prospectus is approved, the student may begin collecting data.
14. All students will have the paper approved by their chair.

**Textbook:**

F.Pyrczak & R. R. Bruce (2004). *Writing Empirical Research Report. A Basic Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Office of Students with Disabilities located in Room 239 Blanks Hall. Please contact Ms. Patricia Hebert, Director for accommodation needs; Phone: 771-3950; Fax: 771-2959; and email: [patricia\\_hebert@subr.edu](mailto:patricia_hebert@subr.edu).

**LiveText Subscription**

Southern University and A&M College-Baton Rouge has entered into partnership with LiveText, Inc. to provide online academic resources for student collaboration and learning outcomes assessment. Therefore, all students enrolled in this course are required to purchase a subscription from LiveText, Inc. through the Southern University Bookstore. LiveText, Inc. provides students with the electronic tools and services needed to serve them in their courses and in their career or academic pursuits beyond graduation.

LiveText is a dynamic tool that will enable you to:

- Create Electronic Portfolios for storing and displaying coursework for use anytime and anyplace;
- Share your résumés, professional portfolios and virtually any projects that can be photographed, video recorded, and uploaded to prospective employers and others who need or want to know about your accomplishments;
- Engage in discussion boards with other students, exchange feedback, and create study groups and other types of social networks.
- Complete assignments in key/required courses where LiveText has been embedded (without LiveText, you will not be able to complete these assignments).
- Create a complete record of your academic career that is malleable and easily accessible.
- Engage in developing a results driven culture of assessment at Southern University.

**Course Content**

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Guidelines for Writing a Hypothesis</b> <b>Writing simple research hypothesis including IV and DV, and expected relationship between them.</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Writing Research Purposes, Objectives and Questions</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Writing Titles: Overview of Pertinent sections of the APA Manual</b>
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Review writing Introduction and Literature Reviews</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Writing Definitions</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Writing Assumptions, Limitations and Definitions</b>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Writing Method Sections</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Writing analysis and Result Sections</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Writing Discussions Sections</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Writing Abstracts</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Review of the Checklist of Guidelines for writing a thesis</b> <b>(Appendix A of textbook)</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Preparation of Power Point Presentations</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Presentations of Power Point based on thesis</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Scheduling of Oral Defense</b>