

Research Project Assignment Instructions

Course: PUBH 5900 - Graduate Project

Assignment: Research Project Paper and Presentation

Purpose: This project is the capstone of the graduate degree program and involves conducting an in-depth literature review on a public health topic of your choosing, conducting your approved research, culminating in a research paper and presentation. Your research paper will be prepared as if for submission to a professional journal, and your findings will be shared with your peers in a formal presentation or poster at the Navigating Health Symposium.

Assignment Components:

Research Paper (Manuscript for Submission)

- **Topic Selection:** Select a public health topic of interest that aligns with your academic and professional goals. Ensure the topic is broad enough to offer substantial literature for review but specific enough to provide a clear research focus.
 - **Approval Required:** Your selected topic must be approved by the project coordinator before proceeding with your research.
- **Critical Literature Review:** Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing literature on your topic, focusing on identifying gaps, analyzing current trends, and evaluating the quality of evidence in the field.
 - **Sources:** Include at least 20 peer-reviewed journal articles or scholarly books published within the last 10 years.
- **Manuscript Guidelines:**
 - **Length:** 20-30 pages (excluding references)
 - **Format:** APA 7th edition style
 - **Sections:** Your manuscript should include the following sections:
 1. **Title Page**
 2. **Abstract** (150-250 words)
 3. **Introduction** (statement of the problem and significance)
 4. **Literature Review** (critical analysis of key sources)

5. **Methodology** (optional, if applicable to your topic)
 1. **IRB approval must be completed prior to conducting research.**
 2. [Eastern Illinois University :: Office of Research and Sponsored Programs - Institutional Review Board \(eiu.edu\)](#)
 3. Your project coordinator will assist with the IRB application.
 6. **Discussion/Conclusion** (interpretation of findings, research gaps, and recommendations)
 7. **References**
- **Journal Submission:** Identify a target journal relevant to your topic. Review the journal's submission guidelines and format your paper accordingly.
 - **Journal Approval:** Obtain approval from the project coordinator for your selected journal.

Presentation of Findings

- **Presentation Format:** You will present your research findings to the class in a 15–20-minute presentation.
 - **Slides:** Prepare a professional slide deck (e.g., PowerPoint, Google Slides) to accompany your presentation.
- **Content:** Your presentation should summarize the key findings from your literature review, discuss any research gaps, and suggest future directions or implications for public health practice.
 - **Engagement:** Encourage questions and feedback from your peers to foster discussion.
- **Presentation Schedule:** Presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. A detailed schedule will be provided.

Grading Criteria:

- **Research Paper (70%)**
 - Depth and breadth of literature review (30%)

- Quality of analysis and synthesis of information (20%)
- Writing clarity, organization, and adherence to APA formatting (10%)
- Appropriateness of target journal and adherence to its submission guidelines (10%)
- **Presentation (30%)**
 - Clarity and professionalism of delivery (15%)
 - Depth of content and engagement with the audience (10%)
 - Visual presentation quality and adherence to time limit (5%)

Submission Deadlines:

- **Topic Approval Deadline:** January 26, 2025
- **Research Proposal and IRB Application Materials:** February 23, 2025
- **Draft Submission for Feedback:** March 16, 2025
- **Final Manuscript Due:** April 13, 2025
- **Presentation Dates:** Department Symposium April, 2025 (TBD)
 - **All dates are tentative**

Additional Notes:

- Be sure to work closely with your project coordinator throughout the process to ensure your project meets the academic and professional standards expected at this level.
- It is anticipated that at a minimum you will meet with your project coordinator every other week.
- If you have any questions or need guidance at any point, schedule a meeting with your project coordinator.

This assignment provides an opportunity for you to showcase your skills in research, critical thinking, and communication. Your manuscript and presentation will reflect your ability to contribute meaningfully to the field of public health.

