STATEMENT OF ORIGINAL WORK

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I attest that this document represents my own work. Where I have used the ideas of others, I have paraphrased and given credit according to the guidelines of the APA Publication Manual, 6th Ed. Where I have used the words of others, (i.e. direct quotes), I have followed the guidelines for using direct quotes prescribed by the APA Publication Manual, 6th Ed.

I have read, understood, and abided by Capella University’s Academic Honesty Policy (3.01.01). I further understand that Capella University takes plagiarism seriously; regardless of intention, the result is the same.

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| **LEARNER NAME:** |  |
| **LEARNER ID:** |  |
| **Capella email address:** |  |
| **MENTOR NAME:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

Research Plan Template – Track 2\*

(\*modified from the original for PhD Colloquium Track 2)

Department of Counseling - Research Plan

QUALitative Methods Version

**Qualitative Research Plan Sections - Table of Contents**

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**Researchers, please insert your answers to the empty text boxes under each section heading/description. The boxes will expand as you type.**

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| **Section 1: Researcher and Topic Information** |
| **1.1 Researcher, Mentor and Committee Information**

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| Learner Name:  |  |
| Learner Email:  |  |
| Learner Phone number: |  |
| Program:  |  |
| Program Chair:  |  |

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| **1.2 Research Question**List the research questions and any sub questions. The research question(s) should:* Identify the specific construct or phenomenon to be explored.
* Use language consistent with the research design or approach.
* Clearly identify the population being studied.

This research plan will be guided by your research question.  |
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| **1.3 Proposed Dissertation Title** -The title should be almost or exactly the same as the research question. -The language in the title should be consistent with the language in the research question.  |
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| **1.4 Research Topic**-This section should provide an overview of the literature on the topic.-Please provide 1-2 complete and concise paragraphs.-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. |
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| **1.5 Need for the Study**-This section should be a minimum of two paragraphs.- In the first paragraph introduce the problem that is informing the research. - In the second paragraph clearly identify the gap and describe the professional (clinical and/or nonclinical) and scholarly need for the study.-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. |
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| **Section 2: Methodology** |
| **2.0 Methodology**-This section should be a minimum of three paragraphs.-The first paragraph will introduce the research methodology and the design/approach.-The second paragraph will introduce the sample and recruitment methods.-The third paragraph will introduce the data collection method(s) and data analysis.-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature.NOTE: The approved qualitative designs/approaches for the Counseling programs are ethnography, generic qualitative inquiry, case study, grounded theory, and ethnography. Please review the *“Acceptable Qualitative Research Approaches for Counseling Programs”* document on the iGuide for more details on these designs/approaches |
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**Researchers - Complete the remaining sections of the research plan after you have obtained Topic Approval (Milestone 2).**

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| **Section 3: Advancing the Scientific Knowledge Base** |
| **3.1 Advancing Scientific Knowledge**-This section should be a minimum of four paragraphs and should clearly explain the general problem of interest which will contribute to the background of this study. This section should address the following in regard to the problem:* Describe the setting(s) and population the problem affects.
* Describe the negative effects of the problem.
* Describe what the current literature discusses about the problem
* Describe what issues still need to be explored and understood about the problem.

-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. It should be clear that there has been an exhaustive and thorough review of the literature. |
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| **3.2 Theoretical Implications**- This section should be a minimum of two paragraphs.- The first paragraph will introduce the theoretical foundation(s). You will provide more detail about the theoretical foundation(s) in section 4.2.- The second paragraph will describe how this research will contribute to the theoretical foundation identified in paragraph one. The contribution to the theory may be one or more of the following:* Using this theoretical lens to examine an understudied population
* Using this theoretical lens to examine an understudied issue
* To further explain or predict phenomenon through the lens of this theory

-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. You may use seminal works that are older than 5-7 years to support this discussion.NOTE: The theoretical foundation should be a social science or psychological theory that supports your topic. It is not a clinical theory or clinical intervention (e. g., Cognitive Behavioral or Person Centered theory). For example, in a study investigating the impact of child abuse on adolescents’ risk for depression, one might use attachment theory as the theoretical foundation. In doing so, certain constructs (explanatory ideas) from attachment theory (such as secure vs. insecure attachment, attachment disruptions and repair, and emotional dysregulation) would be used to support the research focus. |
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| **3.3 Practical Implications**-This section should be a minimum of two paragraphs.-The two paragraphs should describe the specific practical implications that may result from this research that can be used by any or all of the following stakeholders: the population being studied, practitioners, clinicians, medical practitioners, community based service providers or the wider community itself. -Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature.NOTE: Be cognizant of the limitations and scope of the proposed research. Do not promise practical implications that are beyond the scope of the research. |
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| **Section 4: Contributions of the Proposed Study to the Field** |
| **4.1 Contributions to the Field**-This section should be a minimum of two to three paragraphs.-It should explain how this proposed study will contribute to the professional field, specifically your program area of study (Advanced Studies in Human Behavior, Counselor Education and Supervision, or Counseling Studies) in one or more of the following ways:1. Address an area that is not known about the topic or has not been previously studied.
2. The study advances a topic in a scholarly way, such as focusing on a new methodological approach or an understudied population.
3. Extend prior research on the topic.
4. Fill an important gap in the scholarly literature on the topic.

-It should also explain how this research will contribute to the field through the lens of the research design or approach. In essence, discuss the methodological contributions of the research on your specific topic. Use the following as a guide when considering the methodological lens:* Ethnography – The study should produce a description of some dimensions of a culture.
* Case study – The study should develop a lesson to be learned from the case.
* Grounded theory – The study should generate new theory or point to an emergent theory.
* Phenomenology – The study should explore the lived experience or the inner dimensions, textures, qualities or structures of particular internal conscious process of the participants.
* Generic Qualitative research – This study should explore experiences that people have been through in order to gain a more in depth understanding of the experience or it explores subjective opinions, attitudes, beliefs or reflections on things in their outer world.

-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. You may use seminal works that are older than 5-7 years to support the methodological/design contribution discussion. |
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| **4.2 Theoretical Foundations**-This section will be two to three paragraphs.-It will further detail the theoretical foundation that provides the framework for this study. -Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. You may use seminal works that are older than 5-7 years to support the theoretical foundation.-If more than one theoretical foundation is selected, then you will need to provide a clear explanation of how the theories can be integrated and will support the topic being researched.NOTE: In section 3.2 the theoretical foundation was introduced in the first paragraph of that section. In this section you will provide more specific detail about the theoretical foundation and how it supports the proposed research. |
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| **Section 5: Methodology Details** |
| **5.1 Purpose of the study**-This section should be a minimum of one to two paragraphs and should address the following:* A statement of the general purpose of your study
* A statement of the research problem
* A statement of how this research will contribute to the general understanding of the wider problem
* Address how your research will contribute to a solution to the problem
* Ensure all of the above relates back to your research question
* Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature.
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| **5.2 Research Methodology***Part 1*-This section should be three to four paragraphs.-The paragraphs should provide rationale for the research methodology and research design, explain how the particular design is best suited to answer the research question, and provide an explanation of the epistemological, ontological, and axiological philosophical assumptions that support the methodology and design. -Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. You may use seminal works that are older than 5-7 years to support the theoretical foundation.*Part 2*-Provide a brief statement about the following:* Population and Sample (Section 5.3)
* Sampling Procedure (Section 5.4)
* Data Collection Procedure (Section 5.5)
* Proposed Data Analysis (Section 5.8)

You will provide more detail about each of these in later sections. |
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| **5.3 Population and Sample** -This section should be two to three paragraphs.-It should include specific data/statistics on the population in which you are planning to recruit the participants.-It should also describe the sample that will participate in the study by specifying the inclusion and exclusion criteria for participation in the study.-You will need to state the sample size and support it with a scholarly source.-Support all of your assertions and conclusions with current (within 5-7 years) scholarly literature. Any data/statistics you report on the population should be no more than three to four years old.  |
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| **5.4 Sampling Procedures**-This section should specifically state the sampling strategy and procedures you will use in the study.-Describe in detail each step that you will take from the beginning of recruitment to consent from the participants to participate. You must provide specific details and present the details in the order in which they will occur. You must include all of the following (if applicable):* + The recruitment site(s), acknowledgement of any permissions needed from the sites, and if there is an IRB at any of the sites.
	+ All of the means by which recruitment will occur (i.e., flyers, e-mails, social media)
	+ How potential participants will contact you.
	+ How the potential participants will be screened and how you will proceed if they do qualify and if they do not qualify for the study.
	+ Provide a general overview of the steps on how the data will be collected. You will provide more specific detail in section 5.5
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| **References** |
| **References**-You should have between 50-75 references to support your research plan.-All references should be cited within this research plan.-All references must be written in APA formatting style. |
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