







Steps for Conceptualizing a Research Agenda*

Qualitative Research Faculty Learning Group 2020

	<h2>Determine Your Goals</h2>
	<p>What is one of your longer-term research interests on which you could focus?</p>
	<h2>Begin With the End in Mind</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What overarching question(s) are you interested in exploring?• What would your ideal study look like? (e.g. mixed-methods, exploration of a phenomenon, theory development, etc.)• What information do you need in order to carry out this study?
	<h2>Work Backwards</h2>
	<p>With the long-term question(s) in mind, start working backwards to how that question can be answered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a backward timeline/flowchart• Brainstorm additional questions and information needed that will lead you to the ultimate question you hope to answer• Are there sub-questions that can help lead to your final answer?• Are there preliminary/pilot studies that need to be done in order to have the evidence needed to complete your study?
	<h2>Review the Literature</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has research already been done similar to your study and timeline?• Have some of these questions already been answered?• What has yet to be understood?• Is there insight into the best way to answer your question?
	<h2>Do Your Homework</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarize yourself with the different qualitative approaches and methods, being sure to understand their purpose and scope• How do these different approaches and methods align with your goals, research question(s), and the existing research? What will work best for your goals?
	<h2>Create Your Agenda</h2>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start from ground zero, conceptualizing your first qualitative study• Your purpose for your initial study should be to seek the evidence needed to move/build toward your next study• Repeat by crafting your timeline; Study A purpose offering information for Study B; Study B building toward Study C, etc.



Example Research Agenda

- Long-Term Research Interest - The role nursing can play in decreasing the prevalence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Overarching Question - How can nursing help alleviate perinatal opioid use disorder?
- Review of the Literature answered some sub-questions and exposed gaps in the literature
 - What is the prevalence of NAS in Indiana?
 - What percentage of NAS cases are due to illicit use or prescribed MAT?
 - What percentage of NAS cases are due to newly prescribed MAT vs long standing MAT?
 - What interventions are being done to aid in recovery for the general population?
 - What interventions are being done to aid in recovery for pregnant individuals?
 - What interventions are being done to aid in recovery postpartum?
 - What barriers do individuals have to detoxification?
- Approach and Methods
 - van Manen's hermeneutic phenomenological approach aligns with goals and questions
 - Individual in-depth interviews as primary data collection method
- Working Backwards
 - Are there interventional therapies/policy changes?
 - What structures could be instituted to overcome these barriers?
 - What barriers exist to full recovery?
 - Leads to ground zero question -- *What is it like to be a postpartum person on MAT for OUD?*

**Know that this cycle will change with each study completed and embrace the process. This is a blueprint to help you get where you need to go.*

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