Research Methods Signature Assignment: Research Proposal

Due: Friday April 25, 2025

For this signature assignment, you will propose a research study on a topic of interest related to social work. You will begin with a literature review, in which you provide a summary of at least 4 existing studies, conducted in the last 10 years. These studies will form the basis of your proposal, because they should identify gaps in the current research, which would suggest additional studies need to be conducted to fill these gaps. After completing your literature review, you will move into proposing a study to address the gaps identified. You will discuss what your research question and hypothesis are, the type of research design you will use, and how you will collect your sample. You will also discuss how you will analyze your data, and conclude with a statement of how this research will benefit the social work profession.

The rubric is as follows:

- Completing a literature review containing 4 relevant studies conducted within last 10 years (20 points)
- Identifying a gap in the research that is worth studying further (5 points)
- Proposing a study and identifying the question you hope to answer in your study (5 points)
- Developing a hypothesis (if study is quantitative) or a problem statement (if study is qualitative) (10 points)
- Describing the research methods and procedures you will use (qualitative vs. quantitative, specific study procedures/design) (15 points)
- Describing the sampling method you will use and justifying it (identify whether it's probability or non-probability sampling and the specific type) (10 points)
- Describing how you will analyze data (5 points)
- Explaining how this study will benefit social work profession (10 points)
- Including a references page with proper APA-style citations and proper citations in-text (10 points)
- Using the following format for your paper, with proper spelling and grammar*(10 points):
    - Literature Review
    - Gaps in the Research
    - Proposed Study and Question
    - Hypothesis/Problem Statement
    - Research Methods/Procedure
    - Sampling Method
    - Data Analysis
    - Benefit to Social Work Profession

*The bullet points above are headings you will use to format your paper. You may copy and paste these exact headings from this document, if you'd like.