

Frequently Asked Questions: Consultation Services

Qualitative Methods Research

Q: How can I schedule a consultation?

A: Please visit the Research Center website at <https://www.shsu.edu/academics/colleges/education/centers/center-for-research-excellence-and-innovation> and “click” on the booking link under the researcher of your choice. Dr. Jorgensen provides qualitative research consultation.

Q: Who can request consultations?

A: Faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate researchers within COE and COHS-affiliated projects. Inter-disciplinary team members working with COE and COHS-affiliated projects may participate in collaborator-level consultations.

Q: When should I schedule a consultation?

A: The earlier in your research process, the better. However, consultations are available at any project stage. Availability is first-come, first-serve.

Q: How long are consultations?

A: Consultations are 30 minutes in length. During the initial meeting, we will work to learn about you and your goals and needs, with proceeding meetings being focused more on co-creating and implementing action items to help move you along in your research.

Q: How often may I seek consultation support?

A: To allow the Research Center to support as many individuals as possible, everyone is offered four (4) consultations in total each semester. This number represents consultations across all our staff, not four per staff member. Consultations are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Q: In addition to individual consultations, what other formats are offered?

A: The Research Center will provide in-person or virtual consultations in classes, as well as meet with entire research teams. In some situations, these group consultations will be more minutes in length to meet the various needs. If instructors want several of their students to receive consultation during a semester, we encourage them to schedule a group consultation during their class time. Please feel free to email the director of the research center should you want to incorporate this option into your course planning.

Q: What types of consultations does the Research Center provide?

A: Currently, the research center can assist with:

- Quantitative research design (e.g., survey development, experimental and quasi-experimental designs, reliability and validity considerations)
- Statistics support and interpretation (e.g., correlation, regression, ANOVA, factor analysis, and guidance on selecting and justifying analyses)
- Logical framing and alignment across research questions, methodology, and analysis
- Idea and conceptual development
- Study and research design selection
- IRB preparation and data collection planning

- Analysis planning and method justification
- Interpreting analysis output

Q: What should I bring to a consultation?

A: To make the most of your session, please bring:

- A brief overview of your project or research question
- Any drafts or working documents (e.g., proposal, IRB, survey items)
- Deadlines or timelines
- Specific questions or areas where guidance is needed

If you are unsure where to begin, we can clarify your goals together during the initial consultation.

Q: What is the nature of the consultation?

A: Consultations are developmental and instructional rather than done-for-you services. You will receive support, feedback, and next steps while maintaining responsibility for conducting your research and writing. We are here to facilitate your researcher identity and efficacy.

For all consultations, consultees are often asked to share their Zoom screen or bring hard copies of documents for which they want support. All notes, edits, revisions, analysis, or documentation are conducted by the consultee with the Research Center staff providing support, questions, and suggestions.

*Please note: When sharing documents related to data, please ensure that all information is de-identified. Should a student share data that is de-identified, the Research Staff will stop the share screen immediately to protect participant confidentiality.

Q: What can I expect when I attend a consultation?

A: Consultations are formal in content and informal in tone. That means, the content and relationship with you is the focus, and the setting is collaborative and conversational. We honor your work and all stages of work (from the most initial draft to the most polished piece) are appropriate for consultations. We welcome all questions related to research and writing.

We will begin with introductions, if we have not already met. Next, you will be asked to briefly share your project of interest and indicate your goals for the session. From there, the Research Center staff will provide support. You are the focus and are welcome to shift the conversation to meet your needs.

We are here to supplement the mentorship and support you receive from others in your research community. If you are a student and seeking consultation related to assignments or dissertation, we always defer back to your instructor and/or dissertation chair/research mentor. In some situations, we might ask you to invite your dissertation chair/research mentor to ensure holistic support for your project and common goals and action items.

Q: What services are not provided through research consultations?

A: To maintain academic integrity, consultations do not:

- Perform data analysis on behalf of the researcher
- Serve as peer reviewer for your data analysis
- Write manuscripts or proposal sections for you
- Serve as ghost authors
- Provide line by line editing
- Provide asynchronous support

However, guidance, strategy, feedback, and skill-building are consistently provided.

Q: I see that available times for consults are full. Can I just email my work to the Research Center staff for review?

A: No. Our consultations are designed to provide mentorship and build capacity for research and writing through mentorship. To that effect, we do not review documents by email. After a consultation, Research Center staff may email additional resources or may follow up with individuals on a case-by-case basis.

Q: I have data that I need to analyze. How does the Research Center help with this task?

A: Data integrity and participation confidentiality are of utmost importance; therefore, we can support data analysis but in specific ways. For de-identified data that includes no personal identifying information, we may view the data and provide suggestions and guidance for analysis and support. We will not perform the analysis for you but will guide you in conducting the analysis. For data that is not de-identified, we will be unable to view the data and can provide conceptual support and suggestions.

Q: Will you help me determine if my research ideas are feasible and appropriately scoped?

A: Yes, we can discuss feasibility with course and theses/dissertation requirements, scope, ethical considerations, and next steps for building a sound research plan. We may not have expertise in your specific field, but we can guide you with support and questions to help determine the feasibility of your study.

Q: Do you help with NVivo Dedoose or other qualitative data analysis software?

A: We do not currently provide consultation related to these softwares. Erin Owens often hosts workshops related to using software to make meaning of qualitative data.

Q: Does the Research Center help with trustworthiness procedures?

A: Yes. We can talk you through various trustworthiness procedures to use in your qualitative research as well as citations to further develop your knowledge and support your decision making.

Q: Will the Research Center review my interview questions or other data gathering tools?

A: Yes. We can provide feedback on structure, question clarity and provide citations to further develop your knowledge and support your decision making. We can also provide consultees with resources such as scholarly articles and textbooks.