

Frequently Asked Questions: Consultation Services

Quantitative 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. Hodges and Dr. Joshi provide consultations related to quantitative methods, while Dr. Hodges also provides general academic writing support.

Click [here](#) to schedule with Dr. Hodges. If no availability is shown, you may email her at traceyhodges@shsu.edu to inquire about additional openings or cancelations.

Click [here](#) to schedule with Dr. Joshi.

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: 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: 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, followed by providing concrete support. Follow-up meetings may be scheduled for additional support.

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: 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.

For all consultations, students are 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 student with the Research Center staff providing support, questions, and suggestions. 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. If you are a student and seeking consultation related to assignments or dissertation, we always defer back to your instructor and/or dissertation chair. In some situations, we might ask you to invite your dissertation chair 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 statistical analysis on behalf of the researcher
- 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 based on what you can tell us about the variables.

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

A: Yes, we can discuss feasibility with course or 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: Can I receive help in choosing the correct statistical test for my research question(s)?

A: Yes. We can walk through your research questions, design, variables, and assumptions to identify a justifiable analysis plan. We can also help brainstorm alternative tests if assumptions are violated. Through this process we can also review assumptions (e.g., normality, homogeneity of variance, multicollinearity, homoscedasticity). Research Center staff can help you interpret the results, though we do not run the diagnostics on your behalf.

Q: Can you help me understand how to report statistics in APA format?

A: Yes. We can help you interpret output from your statistical software and determine what information needs to be included in APA-formatted tables and narratives. We can provide suggestions for how to communicate the results. The SHSU Library also includes APA guides that are helpful for correctly reporting data.

Q: Do you help with SPSS, Jamovi, R, MPlus, or other statistical software?

A: We primarily support SPSS and R, but we can provide conceptual guidance that applies across statistical software. We do not write syntax or code on your behalf. One goal of the Research Center staff is to ensure you understand what statistical analyses are appropriate for answering your questions and that you understand conceptually why those analyses work and how to execute them successfully.

Q: Does the Research Center help calculate reliability and validity or other psychometric analyses for instruments?

A: Yes. We can guide you through appropriate reliability analyses (e.g., Cronbach's alpha, split-half) and validity approaches (e.g., factor analyses, Scree Plots, content validation). We will help you interpret the results, but you must run the analysis.

Q: Can I receive help in understanding effect sizes and how to interpret them?

A: Yes. We provide support on interpreting common effect sizes (e.g., Cohen's d, η^2 , r, β , odds ratios) and evaluating practical significance alongside statistical significance. During a short consultation, we may not have time to cover all information, so you are encouraged to have specific effect sizes for which you would like support or which apply to your specific research and data.

Q: I am required to use a method I am unfamiliar with – can you teach it to me?

A: It depends. We can provide guidance conceptually about why you may want to use a specific analysis. We can also walk you through examples or help you interpret output. In a short consultation, we cannot teach you a complex statistical technique in detail.

Q: Can you review my survey or instrument for alignment with my research questions?

A: Yes. We can provide feedback on structure, question clarity, alignment to constructs, scales, and psychometric considerations. You will revise and finalize the instrument independently.

Other Questions? Email the center by seeing the address at the bottom of the website.