Research Methods (Psy 365)

Research Ethics

What We Will Cover in This Section

• Overview.
• Research with human participants.
• Animal research.

Overriding Principle

DO NO HARM
1. Responsibility

- It is the researcher’s responsibility to evaluate his/her research in light of the APA Ethical Principles.
  - The researcher is responsible for the study.
  - The researcher is responsible for the ethical behavior of all collaborators.

2. Minimize Risk

- It is the researcher’s responsibility to determine the degree of risk associated with a study.
  - To what degree are the participants at risk?
  - Is the potential knowledge to be gained worth the risk?

3. Deception

Deception occurs when the research design requires the researcher to give misleading information to the study participants.
4. Freedom From Coercion

1. Voluntary participation.

2. Dual relationships.
   Dual relationships exist when the researcher has more than one relationship with a potential participant.

3. Freedom to decline.

5. Protection From Harm

Participants’ rights include protection from harm and the removal of harmful consequences.

6. Informed Consent

Participants should be informed of the nature of the study and the possibility of physical and mental discomfort, harm, and danger.
7. Debriefing

DEHOAXING.
Informing participants about any experimental deception and making sure that they understand the true nature of the study.

DESENSITIZING
Making sure that participants are comfortable with the nature of their performance and have no residual discomfort.

8. Removal of Negative Consequences

The researcher is responsible for the removal of any negative consequences that result from participation in a study.

9. Confidentiality

The extent to which others have access to the research results and performance.
Confidentiality Elements

PRIVACY
The right to control the amount of information that participants reveal about themselves.

ANONYMITY
Collecting data in such a way that the researcher cannot associate the data with a specific person.

Animal Research

1. Overview.

• The acquisition, care, and use of animals will be done in compliance with current laws and regulations.
2. Supervision

- A psychologist trained in research methods and experienced in the care of laboratory animals closely supervises all procedures.

3. Instruction

- Psychologists ensure that all individuals under their supervision using animals have received explicit instruction in their care.


- People responsible for the care of animals will minimize their discomfort, illness, and pain.
  - Animals will be subjected to pain, discomfort, and privation only when other techniques are not available.
5. Termination

- Terminations, if necessary, are done painlessly.

Research Malpractice

Plagiarism

- Taking someone else’s ideas and passing them off as your own.

Don't do it!
The End