



Resources and Opportunities for Developing Research Skills

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www.IHRP.UIC.edu



Background

▶ Research Skills

- Knowledge of and ability to implement activities required for the conduct of research (systematic, data-based inquiries for purposes of advancing scientific knowledge)
- Does not include skills for obtaining funding needed to conduct research although clearly strong research skills may be a prerequisite for a successful funding proposal



▶ Research Skills

- Important at all stages of training and career
- Early: Valuable opportunities to acquire core competencies and begin to add more specialized skills
- Later: Key for keeping current with developments in research methods emerging since one's original training and thus being competitive for funding, having scholarship recognized as rigorous and cutting-edge, etc.
- “ABL” mind set recommended – “Always Be Learning” (Research Skills)



▶ Types of Opportunities

- Format
 - Self-instruction/practice
 - Peer learning
 - Mentorship
 - Workshops/seminars
 - Trainings
 - Courses
 - Certificate programs
 - Degree programs
- Modalities
 - Synchronous (real-time)
 - Asynchronous (information exchanged but not in real-time)
 - Uni-directional (e.g., on-line training video)
- Locations
 - Local
 - Online
 - Remote



- ▶ Considerations in Selecting Opportunities
 - Alignment with one's professional and career goals
 - Short-term
 - Long-term
 - Fit w/existing knowledge and skills
 - Fit w/learning style
 - Financial cost
 - Time requirement
 - Logistics
 - Fit with schedule
 - Access
 - Need for formal documentation
 - Strategic sequencing
 - Others???

Researching & Identifying Opportunities

▶ UIC Websites

- [Office of Undergraduate Research](#)
- [Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [Certificate Programs List](#)
- [School of Public Health](#)
- [Institute for Health Research and Policy](#)
- [Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research](#)
- [ACCC and Lynda.com](#)

- ▶ External websites
 - [National Institutes of Health](#)
 - [University of Michigan ICPSR](#)
 - [UCLA Institute for Digital Research and Education](#)
 - [Coursera](#)
 - [Mplus](#)
 - [Qualitative methods](#)
- ▶ Listservs and bulletin boards
 - Post query about training opportunities desired on listserv for your home organization or discipline and/or one focused on the targeted area of research skills (e.g., EVALTALK for program evaluation)
 - Review archives for threads on topics of interest
- ▶ Professional conferences
 - Often will have pre-conference workshops focused on developing research skills in selected areas
- ▶ Ask colleagues and mentors for leads
- ▶ Broad web search (e.g., Google)
- ▶ Other ideas???

Illustrative Resources & Opportunities

- ▶ On-campus
 - Mentoring
 - [Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Award](#) (students must be eligible for Federal work study)
 - [Summer Research Opportunities Program](#) (undergraduates)
 - Listservs
 - [Statistics](#)
 - Seminars/Workshops
 - IHRP Chalk Talks (advanced statistical methods)
 - Training
 - [Cancer Education and Career Development Program](#) (for pre- and post-doctoral trainees)
 - Certificate programs
 - [Clinical Research Methods Certificate Program](#)
 - Other???

▶ Off-campus

- Mentoring and Training
 - NIH K, T, and F Awards, Administrative Supplements to existing awards (see NIH Research Training and Career Development [website](#) for tool that can be used to identify opportunities specific to training level – undergraduate to established investigator)
- Listservs
 - [EVALTALK](#)
- Courses
 - [NIH Introduction to the Principles and Practice of Clinical Research](#) (free on-line course)
 - [ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research](#) (short courses held at Univ. of Michigan)
- Certificate
 - [Coursera: Methods and Statistics in Social Sciences Specialization](#) (5 course sequence including quantitative and qualitative methods)
- Other???

