

Quantitative Methods

Department of Psychology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Known informally as the “quant minor,” this is an opportunity for graduate students to document specific training in statistics and methodology. This is *not* an official university minor and should not be listed as such on the doctoral program of studies.

REQUIREMENTS

- ➔ **Notify Supervisory Committee.** When you meet with your supervisory committee to develop your program of studies, specify that you plan to complete the concentration in quantitative methods. The committee must be notified of your intention to pursue the concentration in quantitative methods prior to approval of the dissertation proposal.
- ➔ **Complete 18 Credit Hours of Statistics and Methodology.** See <http://psych.unl.edu/psycrs/> for course offerings in the department. There are also several courses offered outside of the psychology department, and workshops can count toward the total credits (1 credit per workshop). See Dr. Brock or Dr. Garbin to discuss course planning.
- ➔ **Complete a Comprehensive Exam.** There are several options for completing the comprehensive exam (see examples in the right panel). The key requirements are (a) demonstration of professional level acquisition of a complex, nonstandard model* and (b) approval by the supervisory committee of the approach to the exam.

*Your supervisory committee will determine what constitutes a *complex, nonstandard* model.

For more information, contact:

Rebecca L. Brock
220 Burnett Hall
rebecca.brock@unl.edu
(402) 472-7779

Calvin P. Garbin
218 Burnett Hall
cgarbin1@unl.edu
(402) 472-3721

EXAMPLE COMPS*

SIT-DOWN TEST

In collaboration with Dr. Brock and Dr. Garbin, your committee will compile a set of questions (with a set of relevant readings) for you to answer during a designated period of time.

PAPER

Submit a paper demonstrating the use of an advanced data analytic approach. The paper might include a comparison of the advanced approach to a classic analysis, highlighting what was gained by the novel approach. Often, this paper is presented at a conference or submitted to a journal.

DISSERTATION

If you incorporate a non-standard, advanced approach to data analysis in your dissertation, this may meet the requirement for comps.

ANNOTATED ANALYSIS

Complete an analysis that would be considered advanced in nature, and submit (a) a statement detailing the approach, justification for choices that were made during the analysis, and a detailed interpretation of the results, and (b) relevant printouts/output.

TEACHING

If you TA for a statistics or methodology course, you may submit a reflection statement at the end of the semester explaining what you learned about teaching quantitative methods.

*The final comps requirement must be approved by the supervisory committee, and is not limited to these examples.