Quantitative Methods

Department of Psychology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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

REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a graduate student in the Department of Psychology
- **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 might count toward the total credits. You will select a quantitative advisor to help you with 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.

EXAMPLE COMPS*

SIT-DOWN TEST
In collaboration with your quant advisor, 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.*

Quantitative Faculty

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