



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 43768
Name: Research methodology applied to social sciences
Cycle: Master's Degree
ECTS Credits: 15
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
2170 - Master's Degree in Social Welfare: Family and Intervention	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter
2279 - Master's Degree in Social Welfare: Family and Intervention	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
2170 - Master's Degree in Social Welfare: Family and Intervention	Research methodology applied to social sciences	ELECTIVES
2279 - Master's Degree in Social Welfare: Family and Intervention	Metodología de la investigación aplicada a las ciencias sociales	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

MONTAGUD MAYOR JAVIER PERFECTO

SUMMARY

The analysis of reality is fundamental in the process of intervention. This principle, which has defined the Social Sciences in general and Social Work in particular since its origins, has become increasingly more prominent as a result of new and complex social problems that arise with postmodernism. In this effort to understand the changing world fits this module. Research is the means to create knowledge, to investigate the causes and characteristics of new social situations. But research not only provides Social Sciences and Social Work thinking before acting, but also during and after the action, which is especially useful as you can afford to generate their own theories and methods from analysis and practical reflection. To improve the effectiveness of the practices, policies and programs of Social Sciences and Social Work requires methodological procedures and techniques to provide systematic research and resources. The research ultimately means keeping a reflective dialogue with the situation, worrying about the analysis of problems and the search for evidence on the effectiveness of the intervention. Under these premises, the subject of "Research Methods and Techniques" aims to broaden the knowledge they have acquired during undergraduate studies. Is a specialization that helps to renew and perfect the skills to analyze increasingly complex social reality and thereby strengthen the use of research in the field of social intervention.



PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Not required.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Act autonomously in learning, make informed decisions in different contexts, issue judgements based on experimentation and analysis and transfer knowledge to new situations.

Act autonomously in learning, make informed decisions in different contexts, issue judgements based on experimentation and analysis and transfer knowledge to new situations.

Advocate for knowledge that promotes the development of original approaches from social action within the spheres of family, minors and youth and in family care for people requiring support.

Apply scientific and professional documentation sources, considering the use of new technologies.

Aprender a desarrollar el tipo de diseño de investigación que sea más adecuado al problema de investigación complejo que afecta al contexto familiar.

Aprender a diseñar proyectos de investigación avanzados que aborden la complejidad social y familiar, especificando las distintas fases y la metodología de investigación aplicada.

Be able to access to information tools in other areas of knowledge and use them properly.

Be able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, adapting to the characteristics of the situation and audience.

Be able to interpret results derived from qualitative and quantitative data analysis in studies with families, adolescents and young people.

Buscar y seleccionar información en bases de datos y documentos de carácter científico y profesional vinculados con la intervención familiar, y tener capacidad para sintetizarla e interpretarla.

Capacidad de formular y ejecutar proyectos de investigación en el ámbito del bienestar social y los contextos familiares aplicando nuevas metodologías.

Collaborate effectively in work teams, taking on responsibilities and leadership roles and contributing to collective improvement and development.

Contribute to the design, development and implementation of solutions that respond to social demands, considering the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.



Contribute to the design, development and implementation of solutions that respond to social demands, considering the Sustainable Development Goals as a reference.

Create and lead work teams that contribute to the improvement and collective development of family intervention.

Demonstrate critical and self-critical reasoning in the field of the degree, considering aspects such as professional ethics, moral value and the social implications of the different activities carried out.

Desarrollar la capacidad de iniciativa, pensamiento crítico y creatividad.

Desarrollar la capacidad para analizar nuevos problemas de forma rigurosa y sistemática.

Desarrollar la capacidad para desarrollar procesos de investigación que contribuyan a generar avances en el conocimiento.

Describe strategies for disseminating and transferring research results and the systematisation of social work practice with families, minors and youth and in family care for people requiring support.

Design research and/or intervention projects in social work within the spheres of family, minors and youth and in family care for people requiring support.

Develop research processes that contribute to advancing knowledge.

Engage in rigorous and systematic research on emerging social issues.

Identify emerging challenges in social work within the spheres of family, minors and youth, and in family care for people requiring support.

Identify the needs for knowledge production in social work practice with families, minors and youth, and in family care for people requiring support.

Integrate current research models and techniques into the various levels of intervention related to the family environment.

Know and understand, within the area of the degree, inequalities based on sex and gender in society; integrate different needs and preferences based on sex and gender into the design of solutions and problem-solving.

Know how to communicate conclusions and the knowledge and rationale behind them to both specialised and non-specialised audiences clearly and unambiguously.

Organise intervention processes related to social action in the spheres of family, minors and youth and in family care for people requiring support, in the community and in other contexts.

Profundizar en el conocimiento de la complejidad y la diversidad de formas de vida y de vínculos en las familias.

Propose creative and innovative solutions to complex situations or problems within the field of knowledge to respond to diverse professional and social needs.



Saber integrar los modelos y técnicas de investigación actuales en los distintos niveles de intervención vinculados con el ámbito familiar.

Saber interpretar los resultados derivados de la aplicación de técnicas y herramientas (software) de análisis de datos tanto cuantitativas como cualitativas en estudios con familias, adolescentes y jóvenes.

Search and select information from databases and scientific and professional documents related to family intervention and be able to synthesise and interpret it.

Students should communicate conclusions and underlying knowledge clearly and unambiguously to both specialized and non-specialized audiences.

Students should possess and understand foundational knowledge that enables original thinking and research in the field.

Understand and comprehend, from the field of study, inequalities based on sex, gender and other axes of discrimination in society; integrate different needs and preferences in the design of solutions and problem-solving, considering these axes of discrimination.

Update and rigorously and systematically test acquired knowledge, having the capacity to solve problems in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to the field of study.

Use IT tools and techniques for advanced qualitative and quantitative data analysis related to research in studies involving families, adolescents and young people.

Use strategies for disseminating and transferring research results and systematisation of social work practice in the field of social work with families, minors and youth, and in family care for people requiring support.

Utilizar técnicas y herramientas (software) para el análisis cualitativo y cuantitativo avanzado de datos de investigación en estudios con familias, adolescentes y jóvenes.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. 1. Introduction to social science research

- Science and social research
- Objectives, characteristics and differences of research in social sciences
- The scientific method: concept, stages and types (deductive/inductive)
- Research in the field of social intervention
- Recommendations to define the type of research

- Research perspectives: qualitative and quantitative
- The research project: description of the object, justification, formulation of the research question, objectives, methodology, operationalization of variables and instruments.



2. 2. Definition of research projects in social sciences.

- Research perspectives: qualitative and quantitative
- The research report: structure and types
- Dissemination and visibility of the research activity

3. 3. The scientific literature: review, databases, sources for research in the field of social and family welfare

- Types of data sources
- Databases for research in social welfare
- The role of evidence in social intervention
- Review of scientific literature for social research

4. 4. Introduction to the perspectives and techniques of qualitative analysis

- Contemporary perspectives of qualitative analysis
- Structural analysis of the discourse system
- Critical discourse analysis
- Frame analysis and Grounded Theory
- Main qualitative analysis techniques: Interviews and discussion groups
- Discursive materials: texts, documents, images, etc.

5. 5. Strategies and analysis tools

- Qualitative analysis procedures
- Transcription and preparation of primary materials
- Fragmentation of the text versus comprehensive approach
- First analytical tasks: analysis conjectures and discursive styles
- Identification of discursive positions
- Narrative configurations
- Semantic spaces
- The use of qualitative analysis software (Atlas-ti / Maxqda)
- The writing of the qualitative report

- Variables: definition, types and measurement scales.
- Measures of central tendency and variability.
- Hypothesis contrast (parametric and non-parametric).
- Creation of databases through statistical packages (SPSS and Open Access software): data matrices and definition of variables.
- Execution of descriptive and contrast analyzes of basic assumptions (normality, homogeneity of variance)



6. 6. Data analysis through quantitative techniques I: Descriptive statistics and its application to the field of social welfare and family

- Variables: definition, types and measurement scales.
 - Measures of central tendency and variability.
- with SPSS and Open Access software

7. 7. Data analysis through quantitative techniques II: Inferential statistics and its application to the field of social welfare and family

- Basic concepts of statistical inference.
- Classification of bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques: Dependency methods and interdependence methods.
- Main dependency methods: Factor analysis.
- Main methods of interdependence: Correlation analysis. Regression analysis. Discriminant analysis. Multiple analysis of variance

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	93,40
Theoretical and practical classes	43,30
Computer classroom practice	13,30
Total hours	150,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	131,00
Independent study and work	0,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	131,50
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	262,50

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Teaching methods combine theoretical discussion with practical teaching, both perspectives exist between a logic continuity and complementarity. In order that the learning process would be more active, a climate of participation of the students in the classroom will be enhance. The seminars and other activities provide a complement of some contents of the agenda.



Teaching methodology:

- MD1: Theory, participatory lecture.
- MD2: Discussion of articles and other readings.
- MD3: Resolution of case studies.
- MD4: Debate or discussion.
- MD5: Working Group.
- MD6: Search and analysis of documentation.

EVALUATION

SE1 - Attending classes as a prerequisite for evaluation and must cover a minimum percentage of sessions (90%). Below this minimum, unless good cause, the student will not be evaluated. Weight on the final score: 10%

SE9 - Design of a research project. Weight on the final score: 25%

SE10 - Practical exercises. Weight on the final score: 65%

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