

The Fundamentals of Psychometric Assessments: Understanding Validity, Reliability, and Other Important Stuff

Course Outline

Course Developer

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Course Format

Three weeks, 10-15 hours per week

Course Prerequisites

No pre-requisites are required for students interested in learning more about psychometric assessments, who are not interested in pursuing “B” level qualification. However, those students interested in taking this course to pursue “B” level qualification must have, at minimum, an undergraduate degree.

Note: B level qualifications are determined by the publishers and/or distributors of B level assessment tools. To qualify to purchase and administer “B” level psychometric assessments, the general expectation is advanced or graduate-level university training in tests and measurements and interpreting psychological assessments. This course (or a similar university-level course in tests and measurements) is one essential component in the process of becoming qualified to administer “B” level psychometric assessments and is a pre-requisite for *Psychometric Assessments: Selection, Administration, and Interpretation of “B” Level Tools*.

Course Description

This 30-hour course introduces basic statistical concepts that are foundational to psychometric assessments (e.g., scales, norms, frequency, correlation) and introduces factors that impact reliability and validity in test construction and use.

Course Objectives

General:

Participants will acquire the foundational skills necessary to qualify to purchase, administer, and interpret “B” level tools.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Meet prerequisites for entry to the companion course, CPE 521: Psychometric Assessments: Selection, Administration, and Interpretation of “B” Level Tools
- Interpret relevant statistical concepts that impact the construction and ethical use of standardized psychometric assessments (e.g., correlation, factor analysis, means, norms, standard scales, percentiles)
- Critically review assessment descriptions in catalogues
- Examine test manuals and academic literature to determine test validity, reliability, and appropriateness for use with specific clients



Required Texts / Supplies

Drummond, R. J., Jones, K. D., & Sheperis, C.J. (2015). *Assessment procedures for counselors and helping professionals* (8th ed.). Boston: Pearson. ([Print](#) and [e-text](#) available from Pearson)

Additional Readings

Throughout the course, relevant readings will be posted on our website. Plan to spend a minimum of 2-3 hours per week on the readings.

Course Completion Requirements

Students must achieve an overall grade of at least 80% to successfully complete a course. If absent or offline for more than 48 consecutive hours, students are required to contact the instructor.

Participation	20%
Critical Review of a Psychometric Tool	25%
Statistical Concept Highlights	25%
Selection of Assessments	30%

Online Instruction Overview

This online course will be conducted using the “Moodle” course management system. Registered students will receive log-in instructions by email the Monday prior to the course start date. This system relies on asynchronous discussion forums (i.e., participants post when it’s convenient for them, not during a scheduled time slot). However, from time to time, we may schedule live “chats” using Instant Messaging software (e.g., Skype, GoToMeeting).

Online learning offers amazing opportunities for shared learning. Many experts in the field believe that the best learning online occurs in the discussion forums and that the posted course content may take on a secondary importance. Although this course will provide comprehensive content, your active participation in the discussion forums (i.e., checking in and briefly posting once or twice per day to each open discussion) will enrich your learning significantly.

Operational Requirements

As this course is offered entirely online, students must have reliable Internet access and be comfortable using Internet technology and participating in discussion forums.

Although there are no scheduled classes, students will be expected to spend a similar amount of time on this course as they would in a classroom-based environment of 30-40 hours.

Documents will be posted in Word, PowerPoint, and PDF —students must be able to download these documents and also upload similar documents.

Accommodation

If you have a disability that needs accommodation for this course, please let us know and we will work with you to more effectively meet your needs.

