Evidence Appraisal

MODULE GUIDE

RMH 3007-N

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Module Team

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Module Outline:

This module develops students understanding of the concept of evidence based practice as a framework in which to explore different research methodologies. The module will outline the major features of the research process used within health and social care and will have two main areas of focus. The first is to develop students understanding of different research methodologies and provide them with appropriate evaluative tools to assess the quality of research. The second area of focus is to allow the students to develop skills in areas that will help them prepare them for their final year independent project. In addition to this students will be able to develop key skills in critical thinking, academic writing and information retrieval.

For students working in the NHS Learning outcomes have been mapped against the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework and, for those students working within the NHS, successful completion of this module will contribute towards demonstration of achievement of Dimensions: Core 2, IK2 and IK3. The module will be assessed by a two hour seen examination in which students will evaluate the methodological quality of selected pieces of evidence.

Module Aims:

The aims of the module are to enable the student to:

- extend their knowledge of the empirical and methodological underpinnings of educare and health and social care research and to use this to make scientifically based judgments
- appreciate the role of a range of evidence in supporting their practice
- develop practical skills for accessing and retrieving published research evidence
• develop their key skills to assist in the development and completion of their final year independent project.

Main Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

Cognitive and intellectual skills
• appraise and evaluate research reports from appropriate sources to make independent judgments on their academic rigour
• evaluate the potential contribution and limitations of different types of evidence in promoting effective practice

Knowledge and Understanding
• demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of appropriate research methodologies
• address the ethical and moral dilemmas arising during research activities with specific emphasis on educare and health and social care research

Practical / professional qualities and skills
Key transferable
• plan, manage and evaluate the acquisition of available published research evidence from a range of sources
• construct a written essay in an acceptable academic format that employs a balanced, logical and supported argument
• adopt a broad ranging and flexible approach to self directed study in order to organise own work schedule to meet required deadlines.

Indicative Content:
Principles of evidence based practice (EBP),
Research process principles,
Evaluation of: experimental research, survey research, qualitative research,
Interpretation and appraisal of research findings,
Techniques of quantitative and qualitative research,
Academic writing,
Critical thinking,

**Learning and Teaching Strategies:**
A variety of learning and teaching strategies will be used throughout the duration of the module. A series of key note lectures will introduce students to key stages of evidence based-practice, the research process and research evaluation.

Seminars will be used to further explore these concepts and apply them to the evaluation of published evidence. Seminar activities will include practising the critique of published research and key skills development. The students will also be expected to engage with structured learning materials throughout the module (including Blackboard) in order to help them develop the skills required.

*Students should also be reminded that they are responsible for preparing for seminars by reading the stated literature for the course.*

**Assessment:**
Type: The assessment for this module is based upon a two hour seen examination, which carries 100% of the marks for the module

Questions will focus on evaluating published research and key areas of the research process. Students will be provided with two research papers at least 4 weeks prior to the examination. Students will be provided with opportunities to discuss the examination research papers. The examination questions will be provided to students at least two weeks before the date of examination.
Examination date: Monday 11th January 2016 (13:00-15:00)

Assessment Guidelines:

The assessment will be marked subject to the following criteria:

- understand relevant methodological issues
- critically analyse key stages of the research process
- critically evaluate research findings
- understand the relevance of research findings to practice
- use a logical and appropriate structure
- clearly present their work in terms of writing, spelling and grammar

Recommended Reading:

Below is a list of texts you may or may not find useful. Rather than rushing out and buying these texts it is advised that you look before you buy. Different books suit different people. As a rule of thumb select research books that you are comfortable with. It is also worth noting that most of these texts are relevant to health research. However, research methods is studied as part of many disciplines and the library has a wide range of these in other sections of the library, most notably social sciences on the first floor.

Key texts:


(*** Denotes strongly recommended)
**Recommended/background reading:**


