For the purpose of the research practicum you have to select a research topic relevant to the rural context. Your research topic has to build on the work you have done in SWK 520. Your research topic has to be approved by your instructor, the School of Social Work’s research committee and the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Building on your proposal as developed in SWK 520 you have to develop and implement a project plan. You have to show evidence that you are able to implement every step of the research process. You will be guided through the process by means of individual supervision, group supervision and class discussions. The final product of your research project is a comprehensive research report. The research project is based on an individual research project and group projects or reports are not allowed. The research report will provide evidence of your ability to master the research process. The report should be outlined in the suggested format (minimum requirements).**Your report must be handed in with the course binder as discussed under course requirements. You must hand in the research supervision form with each supervision session.**

**Cover Page** (Title of Project, Student Name, IRB Approval #, SWK 530, Name of Instructor)

**Abstract**

**Index Page**

**Section 1: Introduction**

* A short introduction which will help the reader to know what to expect in the report (half page)
* Problem formulation – literature (2 pages)
* Rationale for the study (2 pages)
* Research questions and/or hypothesis (Half page)
* Aims and objectives of the study (Half page)
* Discussion of concepts related to the study (3 pages)
* Limitations and ethical considerations (1 page)

**Section 2: Literature Review** (15 pages)

* Start with a discussion on the reasons for the selection of literature
* Make sure you include the concepts (parameters of the study) as discussed in Section 1
* Provide a synthesis at the end of your literature review

**Section 3: Research methodology** (10 pages)

* Research methods and overall objectives
* Research design
* Research methods in terms of collection and analysis (including the data collection instrument and sampling)
* Data collection
* Data analysis

**Section 4: Results** (10 pages)

* The results of the empirical study
* Graphs, tables, analysis frameworks as relevant to the specific method of data collection
* The interpretation of the results

**Section 5: Conclusions and recommendations** (5 pages)

* Basic conclusions based on the results
* Recommendations based on the results and conclusions
* Recommendations in line with your aim and objectives
* Summary

**Bibliography / Reference List**

**Addendums /Appendices**

**Minimum Requirements:**

1. Your writing should reflect analytical thinking and scientific reasoning
2. The research report should be written in APA style
3. Font size: 12
4. Spacing: One and a half
5. The pages indicated are the maximum pages (**not the minimum**)
6. References: 25 journal articles and/or book chapters