**Quantitative Research Proposal Instructions**

1**. Study these instructions with focused attention!** The purpose of this paper is to create a Quantitative Research Proposal from your Nursing Clinical Question/PICOT assignment. You are not actually conducting research, but will create a proposal for future research based upon the criteria listed in these instructions and the grading rubric. The proposal will be completed in two sections and will be compiled into one final paper. **Refer to the sample research proposals in the course for guidance on content and writing style. Be sure to address all the grading rubric criteria. Hint: Study these sample nursing proposals in depth!** Print them and highlight key sections so you can refer back to them when constructing all sections of your proposal. Also, **use the primary studies from the Nursing Clinical Question assignment as a guide for style and content**.

2. This paper meets the liberal studies writing requirement of 20 pages of multi-draft revised writing. This means the body of the paper will be 10 pages (not including the title page, abstract and reference page) and you will be making revisions to all ten pages for a total of 20 pages of revised writing. The final page count which includes the title page, the abstract page, and the reference page will be 13. **This means that the reference page should be the thirteenth and final page of the proposal**. **The proposal itself is not to be 20 pages!** Please be sure you follow the page limits for part one and two.

3. **The paper is separated into 3 parts with separate due dates – remember, just one section at a time – you don’t have to do this all at once!**  After you complete part one and receive feedback, you will be required to again submit part one (with corrections/revisions) along with part 2; **submit part one and two as one cohesive paper.** You will receive feedback on part two and will re-submit it with corrections/revisions as a final draft, along with part one. You will be submitting this paper 3 times as required by the liberal studies criteria.

4. All papers will be written in APA format; please use available resources to help with APA formatting (there is an APA template available). **No extra spacing allowed. Margins and spacing must be APA regulation.**  **Use APA level one headings to represent the rubric sections, for example; Research Question, Importance to Nursing, Literature Review.** Cite every sentence that is not your own idea or common knowledge. One exception to this may be in the literature review section (refer to literature review criteria). **Direct quotes are to be used only in a supporting sentence and to be used to help define a phenomenon/concept/definition. A maximum of 3 direct quotes only.**

**Name your word document file submission as follows: lastname\_researchpaper.**

5. Write simply and directly**.** In a professional paper, limit the use of personal pronouns (I/we/he/she/you/they)and phrases such as “In today’s world.” Do not make generalizations! Emulate the language used in the studies you read in preparation. If you make a statement, you must support the statement with facts. For example, do not just state, “It is expected the results will be generalizable to the population.” You must explain the reason why. This is also an example where you should use the textbook and other sources to support your rationale. **You should be citing your text throughout (or credible sources) the paper to support your choices for key elements of the rubric such as design, sample, variables, data collection and analysis.**

**You will be using the clinical PICO (T) question and the primary research studies that you previously submitted for approval to write this research proposal.** You can use secondary sources to help supplement all sections of the proposal, but once again, the *literature review section* must discuss a minimum of 3 primary studies before you supplement with secondary sources.

**Quantitative Research Proposal Criteria**

1. **Paper Part 1:** The body of the paper will be 4 pages, not including title page, blank second page for abstract, and reference page. Page one will be the title page, page two will be blank for the future abstract, and page three will begin with the introduction and remaining content (body of the paper) which will be 4 pages. The last page of part one will be the reference page numbered as page 7.
2. **Introduction & Purpose**: there is no level one “Introduction” heading for this section. **Use the title of the paper as a heading (refer to the APA sample paper and blank APA template).** Describe the topic of your nursing research and include background information, history, current status, and statistics about your topic. Include the purpose of your study proposal; why will your study be conducted? You can use sources such as the CDC, National Institute for Health, Cochrane Collaboration and National Guidelines Clearing House and other credible sources to support this section. This is where secondary sources such as literature reviews/systematic reviews can strengthen your content. **5 points**
3. **Research question**: use your previously developed PICO (T) clinical nursing question to state your research question. Write the question in sentence format. For example, “(P) Is there a difference in anxiety level in men who are about to undergo open heart surgery between (I) those men who receive guided imagery and those (C) who do not receive guided imagery (T) in the perioperative period”. Consider the type of research design your question will require for example; will you be using a comparison? **5 points**

*Hint: The PICOT formatting actually reflects experimental design because of the inclusion of an intervention and a comparison. You may have formulated a non-comparison question, thus making your study non-experimental or quasi-experimental. I suggest you stick to the use of comparison type of questions for this proposal. However, if you create an appropriate question that does not require a comparison in order to investigate your phenomenon of interest; be sure to explain why a comparison is not needed. Read your textbook (Ch. 10) and the Duke Translational Nursing PowerPoint presentation. You may need to do some of you own research using resources from the internet to help you understand concepts.*

1. **Importance to nursing**: describe why your topic is important to nursing, healthcare and patient care. Be specific. For example, consider how the potential results could change nursing practice, improve patient care, or lower healthcare costs. Think in terms of the whole healthcare milieu. Provide supporting data with a minimum of 3 in text citations. Use secondary sources to help supplement this section and cite. **5 points**
2. **Review of Literature**: Refer to the sample research proposals in the course shell (however, these are more complex than yours needs to bel). You must spend time reading these and analyzing them in order to understand how to craft this section of your proposal. Do the same with your 3 primary studies; refer to the style and language of the actual literature review sections of the 3 primary studies you selected to help you craft this section. **You must use the three** **primary research studies from your PICOT** assignment in this section of your proposal! (You may use other credible resources (from a systematic review) if needed to supplement/ strengthen this section but; this section must discuss the 3 primary studies.) This section is to support your clinical PICO (T) question. Discuss how the studies are relevant to your proposal and how it supports your research question. Also, briefly state the results? *For example,* Santamaria et al. (2013) found that there were significantly fewer patients with pressure ulcers in the intervention group compared to the control group (5 versus 20, *P* =0・001). The literature review is not a detailed analysis of every facet of each primary study but, a conversation of the current literature (your 3 primary studies (recent research that has been completed) that demonstrate the need for your study. What have other researchers discovered regarding your PICOT questions? What did they do? Why did they do it? What relevant information is stated in the discussion section or conclusions of the primary studies in the context of your own question? What if any gaps were found (Areas that were not studied) in the current literature? What weakness and limitations were discussed in the studies? Can you take these suggestions and apply them to your research proposal? **5 points**

*Helpful hints: Consider the following: why you are writing your proposal for future research? Have the authors in the primary studies suggested ideas for future research or specific areas where more research is needed? What was studied and were the results significant? Did the authors reveal limitations and weakness in their studies where you can address these issues in your proposal? Will your study build upon findings or limitations from these studies or are you forging new ground? You may simply want to replicate a previous study to see if you get the same results with your chosen population.*

*Styles vary among literature reviews and among authors. There is no single correct way to write a literature review. Follow the style of the literature review sections of your primary studies and refer to the sample nursing proposals in the course shell*. ***When introducing a study or information from a study use language such as Smith et al. (2016) investigated the effect of X on Y. Use language such as this: The authors concluded that……******The researchers suggest that future research…. The authors state that a limitation to the study was…..***

The first time you cite a study you must include all author names depending upon how many authors are on the publication; see APA resources. If you are discussing a study in succession, for example Smith et al. (2016) “found that seniors improved balance and coordination with physical therapy” You do not need to end cite the sentence because you sited the beginning of the sentence. Also, if the next few sentences are still discussing the same study you do not need to keep citing. The reader knows you are still discussing the Smith study. For example use language as demonstrated above in bold italics. You do not need to keep citing Smith.

**Use a lead-in at the beginning of your paragraph. Basically, introduce the source you are summarizing or paraphrasing at the beginning of the paragraph and then refer back to the source when needed to ensure your reader understands you are still using the same source. You can alternate sentences, every other one citing and using the authors name, then use phrases such as: the author states or points out, the author argues, he goes on to state, according to the author, or this study states.**

**In your paper, do not use personal pronouns, except that in a review of literature when talking about the authors work, you can use “he” or “she,” when you know the gender of the author. Just be sure that these pronouns have a clear referent.**

1. **APA formatting:** Paper error free (spelling, grammar, punctuation). **5 points**

**Part one total possible points = 25**

**NOTE: Your actual part 1 paper will be 7 pages long: APA title page (pg. 1), blank abstract page (pg. 2), body of the paper (pg 3-6), and reference page (pg. 7).** An abstract is required for part one, but you will actually write the abstract during the creation of part two; then insert it into page two of the paper. **Page two (where the abstract will belong) will be blank until you complete part two and insert the abstract.** This is because the abstract is a summary of the study proposal and you will not yet have all the information (for example the design and sampling methods) to complete the abstract until part two is complete.

**B. Paper Part 2:** (Body, 6 pages): not including title page, abstract, and reference page). **Submit with part one as one complete paper**. Page one will be the title page, page two the abstract, (page 3 – 12 the body of the paper). Pages 3-6 will consist of your previously written and revised part one. Pages 7-12 will consist of the new material listed below, and the final page of the paper will be the reference page; numbered as page 13 (you may have an additional reference page).

1. **Part 1 Revisions: 5 Points**

**Abstract**: The abstract is a brief summary of your proposal including the purpose, methods, subjects, and potential conclusions. Normally, an abstract is written in past tense because the research was conducted. For this proposal it will be written in future tense because you have not conducted a study but, perhaps will in the future. For example, “This study will examine the relationship between X and Y.”. In research papers the results are included in the abstract, but you will not have any results because you did not conduct any research. See APA manual p. 25-27, sample research proposals, and your primary studies for guidance. Place the abstract on the second page of the paper. **5 points**

1. **Research Design**: What specific quantitative research design will be employed? Examples include, Experimental, Quasi-Experimental, Pre-experimental or Non-experimental. Give an explanation of your design and cite textbook or credible source. For example describe your design by using textbook citations to provide rationale. Why did you choose this design in relation to your research question? (Cite the text). Why is this design appropriate? (Cite the text). Refer to chapter nine in the text and course materials. **5 points**

*Hint: The PICOT formatting actually reflects experimental design because of the inclusion of a comparison. You may have formulated a non-comparison question, thus making your study non-experimental or quasi-experimental. I suggest you stick to the use of simple comparison type of questions for this proposal. However, if you create an appropriate question that does not require a comparison in order to investigate your phenomenon of interest; be sure to explain why a comparison is not needed. For example, observing hand washing behavior in nurses.*

*Consider the following: Will you be applying an intervention? Will you have a comparison group? Are you using manipulation of any variables? Are you using random assignment of participants to a comparison and or intervention group? Is random assignment necessary to maintain validity of the results? Are you studying phenomena in a natural setting without manipulation or control of an independent variable? Did you use random sampling or purposive sampling methods to pick a study sample from the population? Ask yourself, “is it necessary to use random sampling for patients in the hospital setting?” These factors will determine the type of research design to be used. Read your textbook, course materials, and other credible resources you may discover.*

1. **Variables**: Define independent and dependent variables (cite). What are the dependent and independent variables in your study? Define extraneous variables (cite textbook). What are the potential extraneous variables? (Cite the text, refer to chapter 10) Explain internal and external validity (cite the textbook). What potential elements or factors could influence the validity of the study and results? Use citation from the textbook to support your answers. *Thoughts to consider: Are independent and dependent variables still relevant in non-experimental studies?* **5 points**
2. **Methods, Data Collection, and Setting**: Briefly describe how the study would be conducted. For example, how will the intervention be applied to the intervention group? Will you be using random assignment of participants to an intervention and control group? What tools will be used to collect data? What setting will the data collection take place? Refer to the sample nursing proposals and the studies from your literature review along with Chapters 10, 13 &14 of textbook. Use the studies from your literature review for these methods. You do not need to create these methods. You can borrow ideas from the studies you used in the literature review as long as you give credit and cite the sources. **5 points**
3. **Population, Sample, and Sample Design**: Briefly describe the terms population and sample (Cite the textbook). What specific population will be studied? What type of sample design will be used? Who will be the participants? Describe the purpose/rationale of your sampling design in relationship to your research design. Why is your sample design appropriate for your research design and research question? Explain. Use citations. Refer to Chapter 12. **5 points**

*Hint: what are some of the differences between experimental, quasi-experimental designs, and non-experimental designs regarding the sampling methods? Is random/probability sampling practical or necessary? Again, random sampling is different from random assignment to treatment or control groups. Also, carefully consider what population is being studied. It can be confusing in the hospital setting. Are you studying patients (what specific type of patients?), nurses, or both? Also for the Protection of Human subjects section, consider if consent is necessary and if so; by whom will you need consent? For example, is consent necessary for observing the handwashing behavior of nurses? (FYI observing handwashing behavior would be non-experimental). Consider the design of your study, is it experimental/ quasi- experimental or non-experimental (refer to types of non-experimental designs in chapter 10) and use all available resources in course shell to help you understand these concepts. You may need to use internet resources to help you such as YouTube (just don’t cite it!).*

1. **Data Analysis**: Describe descriptive and inferential statistics (cite the textbook). What elements of your study would be represented with descriptive statistics? Explain the importance of inferential statistics and provide an example of a specific inferential formula/test that could be used to analyze your data. Cite the textbook to support this section and your rationale. **5 Points**
2. **Human Subjects Protection**: If using human subjects briefly describe the elements of informed consent. Describe maintenance of confidentiality and anonymity. What is the role of the Institutional Review Board? (Cite the textbook). Is there risk or potential for harm due to the intervention? If so, briefly describe what you will do to protect human participants? Be sure to address how you will maintain confidentiality*.* Refer to (Ch. 4) of textbook. **5 Points**

*Hint, carefully consider who needs to sign consent, for example it can be confusing when you are studying a phenomena in the hospital setting. For example if you are studying nurse rounding or ratios, who needs to sign consent, if at all?*  Look carefully at your primary studies and how they were conducted; was consent necessary? Was it mentioned? Was it specifically stated it was obtained? When is consent necessary?

1. **Conclusion**: Discuss potential results based upon your hypothesis or results of previous studies. Discuss how you envision application of potential results to nursing practice (as if you had conducted the study). Do you expect your results to be generalizable to the study population? Why? Cite Textbook. Would you anticipate any pushback from nurses or management regarding practice change? Briefly discuss potential limitations/weaknesses of the proposed study and recommendations for future research (for help look to your primary studies to see if this was discussed). Remember you did not conduct any research; you will have no results, but only potential results and conclusions. **5 points**
2. **APA formatting**. Paper error free (spelling, grammar, punctuation). **5 Points**

**Part two total possible points 50**

1. **Paper part 3:** Completed paper with part one & two revisions**.**

Page one will be the title page, page two the abstract, (page 3 – 12 the body of the paper). Pages 3-6 will consist of your previously written and revised part one. Pages 7-12 will consist of your previously written and revised part two, and the final page of the paper will be the reference page; numbered as page 13.

**Part one revision 15 points**

**Part two revisions 35 points**

**APA/formatting 25 points:**

**Total possible points 75**