

NR449 Module 3: Research Design and Methodology Outline

I. Understand the kinds of questions that require a specific quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method design

- Quantitative Questions:
 - Cause, change, measure an effect, test a relationship, predict an outcome, quantify an occurrence
 - Designs: Experimental, correlation, regression, prevalence/incidence
- Qualitative Questions:
 - Describe a phenomenon, develop theory
 - Designs: Phenomenology, ethnography, grounded theory
- Mixed Methods:
 - Combine meaning and control for richer understanding and interdisciplinary insights

II. Establish the link between the research question and the study design

- Research questions guide the selection of design
- Keywords in questions (e.g., 'cause', 'describe', 'predict') indicate appropriate design
- Design must match the purpose and assumptions about knowledge

III. Formulate a research question and select a research design from a topic of interest

- Steps to formulate a research question:
 - Clarify the purpose
 - Identify the population and variables
 - Choose between descriptive, correlational, experimental, or qualitative designs
- Examples:
 - Quantitative: 'Does intervention X reduce symptom Y?'
 - Qualitative: 'How do patients experience condition Z?'