

Research Paper Requirements

Please read notifications and messages on Blackboard for due dates and any changes to these instructions.

The research paper for this course will be generated in four stages:

1. Topic selection (10 points, due about Week 3)
2. Reference list (20 points, due about Week 5)
3. Outline of facts (10 points, due about Week 6)
4. Final paper (60 points, due in Week 8)

1. Each student will select a research topic regarding contemporary institutional corrections for approval by the instructor. Topics may be found from current events in the news, out of the textbook or scholarly books on corrections, research articles, or personal experience or interviews with correctional professionals. Topic selection will be graded on the following criteria:

- a) The topic must be significant enough to have generated research about it.
- b) The scope of the topic should be narrow and specialized.
- c) The topic needs to be an issue, concern, or controversy of interest to jail administrators or prison wardens.
- d) Information generated from the topic will provide facts and insights of interest to correctional professionals.

About the 3rd Week, you will see a Blackboard assignment in which to submit your topic and why you chose it based on the above criteria. NOTE: The IA's and the Instructor will not pre-approve topics. Part of this research exercise is to seek out and understand what topics are important. However, modifications and recommendations will be made in the grading comments.

2. Reference list needs no less than 5 and no more than 7 peer-reviewed articles. Peer-reviewed articles are original scholarly research articles that have been evaluated by other professionals to ensure the researcher has followed appropriate research methodology and statistical analysis. They are published in professional journals. Magazine, web page, and newspaper articles will not be accepted. For example, Criminal Justice and Behavior is a peer review journal, but Corrections Today, the magazine for the American Correctional Association, is not a peer review journal.

Grading criteria include:

- a) Identifying 5-7 articles appropriate for your topic.
- b) Reference list conforms to APA style – both individual citations and the reference sheet.

3. Outline of facts is a basic outline of your research paper.

Grading criteria include:

- a) Using outline format: I, A, 1, a
- b) Include bullet statements for sections of paper
- c) When sections or subsections refer to reference articles, articles are identified in APA style (ie. Smith & Jones, 2009).
- d) Have all articles from your reference list been used?

4. Final paper due the last week. This is where you have put everything together.

Criteria for grading includes:

- a) The paper describes the topic concisely and accurately.
- b) Facts from research articles is presented professionally.
- c) Information from research articles are integrated.
- d) Paper flows according to outline order.
- e) Paper follows APA style (include Reference Sheet in final paper as well).