

<b>Faculty</b>	Economic and Management Sciences		
<b>Home Department</b>	School of Government		
<b>Module Topic</b>	Research Methods and Skills		
<b>Generic Module Name</b>	Research Methods and Skills 814		
<b>Alpha-numeric Code</b>	<b>MPA814</b>		
<b>NQF Level</b>	9		
<b>NQF Credit Value</b>	15		
<b>Duration</b>	Semester		
<b>Proposed semester to be offered</b>	Second semester		
<b>Programmes in which module will be offered</b>	Master of Public Administration (1851)		
<b>Year Level</b>	8		
<b>Main Outcomes</b>	<p>On completion of this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and comprehension of the research process to be followed in completing the MPA Mini-Thesis.</li> <li>• Choose a relevant research topic, state the problem for research and develop hypotheses as well as assumptions to guide their research.</li> <li>• Review related literature on the topic.</li> <li>• Select appropriate methodological techniques for data collection and analysis.</li> <li>• Use the Internet and Electronic Journals to access information.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the necessary communication and practical skills to participate meaningfully in research activities offered through the MPA.</li> <li>• Demonstrate more effective writing skills through improved design and structure, sentence construction and the usage of grammar.</li> <li>• Demonstrate a knowledge of quantitative data analysis and presentation, and the ability to use SPSS.</li> <li>• Prepare a clear and coherent abstract for their proposed MPA mini-theses.</li> <li>• Write an academically acceptable research proposal.</li> </ul>		
<b>Main Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts of research and research design</li> <li>• Theories of research, types of research and the research process</li> <li>• Conducting the literature survey</li> <li>• Planning the research project</li> <li>• Research methods/techniques</li> <li>• Interactions with the academic supervisor</li> <li>• Writing the abstract and research proposal</li> <li>• An introduction to academic writing skills, including organisation, presentation and layout; sentence construction; punctuation and grammar; citation and referencing.</li> <li>• Avoiding plagiarism.</li> <li>• An introduction to the Statistical Software Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)</li> </ul>		
<b>Pre-requisite modules</b>	None		
<b>Co-requisite modules</b>	None		
<b>Prohibited module Combinations</b>	None		
<b>Breakdown of Learning</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Other teaching modes</b>

Time		Requirement per week	that does not require time-table
Contact with lecturer / tutor:	40	<i>Lectures p.w.</i>	1
Assignments & tasks:	40	<i>Practicals p.w.</i>	0
Practicals:	10	<i>Tutorials p.w.</i>	0
Assessments	10		
Self-study	0		
Other: (Research and Presentation)	50		
<b>Total Learning Time</b>	<b>150</b>		
<b>Methods of Student Assessment</b>	Continuous Assessment (CA): 0% Final Assessment (FA): 100%		
<b>Assessment Module type</b>	Final Assessment (FA)		