



The University of Vermont

COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

DOCTORAL PROGRAM OF STUDY

IN HUMAN FUNCTIONING AND REHABILITATION SCIENCES

Criteria for Assessment of Research Article

The exact format will be determined by the selected journal's requirements; however, the article is expected to include the following **Essential Components**, each of which will be reviewed for quality as well as format. Papers will be reviewed as they would when sent to a peer-reviewed journal; the following serves as a guide for expectations of such articles.

	ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
1.	Abstract Includes the sections listed below (Intro through conclusions) within the word limitation provided by the journal.	Abstract is clearly and concisely written and includes purpose, methods, results, and conclusions.	Abstract is missing or does not include purpose, methods, results or conclusions or is written in an unfocused, unclear manner or exceeds a specified word limit.
2.	Introduction/Background Rationale for study, and literature review and critique.	Introduction/background section that includes well-written description and critique of pertinent literature, rationale for study, and research question(s).	Introduction/background section is missing or is incomplete or lacks critical analysis
3.	Methods Research design and rationale, population studied, sampling method, data collection, data analysis.	Methods section that includes concise, clear and appropriate description of population studied, research design, sampling method, data collection technique and data analysis.	Methods section demonstrates insufficient knowledge of the scientific method, or summarizes the pertinent details in an imprecise or inaccurate manner.
4.	Results Related to research question(s) and methods used.	Results section that includes pertinent tables or graphs and that are responsive to research questions(s) and methods used.	Results section does not include pertinent tables or graphs or is incomplete or not appropriate for the research questions(s) and methods used.
5.	Discussion Critical analysis and interpretation of findings, including consideration of strengths and limitations of research design and methods.	Discussion section includes a critical, insightful, well-reasoned and thorough review of findings, interpretation of principal findings in relation to prior research, discussion of methodological weaknesses and limitations of the study, as well as strengths, and significance of study.	Discussion section demonstrates inadequate critical reasoning and interpretation or lacks sufficient depth; methodological weaknesses and limitations and significance of study omitted or insufficiently described or inaccurate.

6.	Conclusions Justified by the findings of the research.	Conclusions (either as separate section or merged with Discussion section as appropriate for the specified journal) are supported by data and include recommendations for future research.	Conclusions (either as separate section or merged with Discussion section) and recommendations for future research are not supported by data or are missing.
7.	References Includes only references cited in article.	References are sufficient in breadth and depth for topic and consistent and correct in format according to journal specifications.	Not all references are cited or references not cited in the article are included, or are not appropriate or selection is superficial, or citation format is inconsistent or does not follow prescribed format.

	ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
8.	Overall Quality of Presentation Presentation and organization, including correct grammar, spelling, and no proof-reading errors.	The manuscript is well-organized, attractively presented with grammar and spelling that is consistently correct.	Presentation is of poor quality and disorganized, or grammar and spelling errors present.
9.	Adherence to all Journal Specifications Including but not limited to: font size, line spacing, margins, length, treatment of tables and figures, and reference style.	The manuscript adheres to all journal specifications including margins, font, treatment of figures and tables, article length.	Article does not fulfill all the specified journal's requirements.
10.	Administrative Steps The student completes all administrative steps and submits the article to the approved journal in the required time-frame.	The student completes all administrative steps and submits the article to the approved journal in the required time-frame. The exam requirement is not met until the Examination Committee receives proof of submission.	The student fails to complete all administrative steps or does not submit the article to the approved journal in the required time-frame.