

RADS 6773 RESEARCH METHODS II – Spring 2026

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: RADS 5003 – Research Methods I

Online course providing opportunities to develop skills in information literacy, including critical analyses of published research. Students will revise their RADS 5003, Research Methods I paper demonstrating graduate-level writing to ***submit to a peer-reviewed publication (upon instructor review); the ultimate goal is to submit the paper for publication. If reviewer feedback indicates changes to be submitted, students are encouraged to make the changes, send to the instructor, and then resubmit.***

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will:

- Select a peer-reviewed publication based on author guidelines in medical imaging, administration, or education for submission.
- Complete CITI training for ethical research practices.
- Revise the literature review from RADS 5003, Research Methods I, based on instructor comments.
- Submit revised literature review for publication.
- Prepare a personal reflection through guided questions about program content.

TEXTBOOKS

Required

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: Author. [ISBN: 9781433805615] \$26.00+

GRADING

45% Scholarly Research Paper (Literature review)

25% Peer-reviewed journal requirements for author submission, including writing style

10% Personal Reflection

10% Proof of submission email with submission number

5% CITI Training Certificate

5% Class Participation (Assessment of Writing Gains)

COURSE SCHEDULE WITH ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES – DAYS ARE MONDAYS except for CITI certificate.

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Course schedule

Date	Assignment/Activity
January 20	Class Starts
January 23 (Friday)	Topic Approval from RADS 5003 – use your paper title
February 2 (Monday)	CITI Certificate – drop box
February 9 (Monday)	Journal “about” and Author Submission requirements - Dropbox
February 23 (Monday)	Revised Paper from 5003- Dropbox
March 16 (Monday)	Submission packet - Dropbox
April 6	Guided Reflection and Assessment - Dropbox

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 pm CST on the date indicated.

Please note: The draft dates can be flexible – please contact the instructor for assistance.

The last opportunity to drop this course with a grade of W is 4:00pm CST on April 29, 2026.

ATTENDANCE

This is an online course. Students should regularly access D2L and check their emails for important communications from the instructor.

GRADING SCALE

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 59 and below

Deadlines for submission of assignments are provided in this syllabus. Failure to comply with the established deadlines may result in a grade reduction. **Assignment submissions are considered complete and graded as such.** Be sure to look at all requirements including the grading rubrics before submitting course assignments within D2L.

PROGRESSION POLICY

Graduate students are expected to do uniformly high quality work on all MSRS coursework pursued (final course grades of A or B). Only grades of A or B are acceptable for graduate courses transferred from another university.

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Graduate students may earn a grade of C in one or two graduate courses and be allowed to continue in the MSRS program as long as their cumulative GPA is 3.0 or higher. If a graduate student earns a grade of C in three or more graduate courses, the student will be dismissed from the MSRS program. Any grade below a C will also result in dismissal from the MSRS program.

ASSIGNMENTS

Topic for Approval

This should be your title page from RADS 5003. If students decide to change topics and write a new paper, please be advised they may not finish this requirements this semester.

CITI Training Certificate

Students will take the CITI training for ethics in research. Go to the MSU IRB homepage: <https://msutexas.edu/irb/>.

The CITI course can be accessed from that page. Please read the instructions, especially under **“Trying to decide which course to take” – *Biomedical Research on Human Subjects***. Submit the completed certificate to the dropbox.

Journal “About” and Author Submission Guidelines

Students must get journal selection approved by the instructor. Please also note that some journals make the author pay for publication; these are predatory publications and are to be avoided. If students are unsure if a publication is predatory, please email the instructor.

When looking at journals, make sure to find the following (see the assignment checklist):

Audience: What is the target audience?

Types of submissions: Does the journal accept literature reviews, original research, editorials, etc.? **Note of caution:** **Systematic reviews require the author to find all available information on a topic (meaning back more than 5 years; students considering a systematic review may not graduate on time).**

Sections: abstract (how many words), introduction, methods, results and/or discussion, conclusions, and future research.

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Graphics: do they ask for tables, charts, graphics, etc. for a literature review? If they do not ask for them, indicate that on the checklist.

Page limit: what is the page limit?

Writing style: APA, Chicago, MLA, AMA, etc.? This MUST be addressed on the checklist.

Special requirements: What are the special requirements, if any, for submission: PRISMA checklist, copyright form, etc.? If there are none, indicate that on the assignment.

RADS 5003 Literature Review

Based on comments from RADS 5003, students will revise their papers. If they choose to change topics, they must receive instructor approval by the date listed in the course calendar. Please note: if students change topics, they may not be able to complete the course requirements for this semester.

NOTE: If the instructor and student determine the research paper should include a survey or any other research design that requires approval or exemption by the MSU Institutional Review Board (IRB), the student should expect the process will require more than one semester. Due dates may be adjusted accordingly.

Proof of Submission Packet (with manuscript number) and Email

Once students approve the final manuscript, they can download and save the entire “packet.” Additionally, the journal editor will send an email of receipt, including a manuscript number, which proves the manuscript has been sent to reviewers; these items should be loaded to the dropbox by the due date in the schedule. Please load the email in the dropbox by the due date in the schedule.

Guided Reflection and Assessment Assignment

Personal Reflection

Students will submit a personal reflection of the research and publication process they experienced in the sequence of MSRS courses – the Word doc template for use is in the assignment box:

- Understanding - How has your understanding of the research and writing process changed as a result of being in the MSRS Program?
- Challenge - What was the most challenging aspect of the research process for you? What suggestions do you have for future students to manage this challenge?
- Reward - What was the most rewarding aspect of the research process for you?

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- Self-Awareness - What did you learn about yourself while completing the research and producing this scholarly paper?
- Publication Potential – How did you feel about submitting your paper for publication, whether or not it was accepted? How did working through this process change your willingness to submit another manuscript in the future?
- Professionalism - How has your experience in the MSRS Program changed your perspective on professionalism (not just writing for the profession but presenting at conferences and/or moving up the career ladder)?

Please use the TEMPLATE in the course

- Understanding - How has your understanding of the research and writing process changed as a result of being in the MSRS Program?
- Challenge - What was the most challenging aspect of the research process for you? What suggestions do you have for future students to manage this challenge?
- Reward - What was the most rewarding aspect of the research process for you?
- Self-Awareness - What did you learn about yourself while completing the research and producing this scholarly paper?
- Publication Potential – How did you feel about submitting your paper for publication, whether or not it was accepted? How did working through this process change your willingness to submit another manuscript in the future?
- Professionalism - How has your experience in the MSRS Program changed your perspective on professionalism (not just writing for the profession but presenting at conferences and/or moving up the career ladder)?

Assessment:

- On a scale of 0 – 5 for the following statements, where 0 is no progress and 5 is high progress, determine your progress on writing literature reviews between Research I and Research II. Briefly reflect on why you gave yourself that number. Discuss the following items (one or two sentences is fine); more information is in the TEMPLATE for students to download and fill out.

Students should submit the completed reflection and assessment assignment (3 – 6 pages in length) as a Microsoft Word document in the appropriate D2L dropbox by the due date indicated on the course schedule.

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments have due dates indicated on the course schedule. Due dates are in place to keep students on target for the semester and allow instructors the time to provide detailed, constructive feedback. Assignments not turned in on time will result in a 0 being recorded for that assignment.

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With that being said, the instructor understands students who are enrolled in the MSRS program may be responsible for managing many employees and/or students as well as personal family matters. If students need any assistance regarding a deadline, they must contact the instructors at least two days before the due date to discuss the issue. “After the fact” stories are not accepted and will result in a grade of 0. Emergencies (death, severe illness, etc.) occur so students should contact the instructors as soon as possible to resolve any due date conflicts. Assignment extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Incomplete grades are given only at the instructors’ discretion and must be requested by the student. If the instructors grant the incomplete, the student has until 90 days after the beginning of the next regular semester (fall or spring) to complete the course requirements. If the student does not complete the course requirements within this deadline, the grade of incomplete will automatically convert into a grade of F. Please note incomplete grades are given only in an emergency or when there are extenuating circumstances. Refer to the Graduate Catalog for additional details about receiving a grade of incomplete in a course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

This course adheres to the MSU Code of Student Conduct. In particular, academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student’s participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. Students should consult the MSU Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code of conduct.

Some components of this course are designed to be highly interactive with students helping each other learn; however, all assignments are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually and not to be shared. When students submit their efforts for grading, they are attesting they have abided by this rule.

RADS 5003 adheres to the [MSU Code of Conduct](#).

In particular, however small, academic dishonesty breaches academic integrity. Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. You should consult the current Student Handbook for answers to any questions about the code.

All components of RADS 5003 are designed to represent the efforts of each student individually and are NOT to be shared, copied, or plagiarized from other sources. Therefore, when you submit your efforts for grading, you are attesting you have abided by this rule.

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An online plagiarism and artificial intelligence screening service may be used in this course. Student assignments may be uploaded to the service to identify similarities to other student papers and published works and to detect AI-generated work.

Cheating includes but is not limited to

Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations

Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the professor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or completing other assignments

The acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty or staff without permission

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to

The use of paraphrasing or direct quotation without correct citation in the text and the reference list

The published or unpublished works of another person

You may NOT submit papers and assignments you have previously submitted for this or any other course.

Using materials generated by agencies engaged in "selling" term papers is also plagiarism.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Declaration of Generative AI in Academic Writing

For all writing assignments, if the student uses any generative artificial intelligence (AI) to construct the content of the assignment, they must declare it. If they do not, it is similar to plagiarism, and the assignment may be subject to a grade of zero or failure of the course, depending on the severity of the incident. AI-assisted technologies should only be used to improve readability and language. If used, it is the responsibility of the student to carefully review and edit this content, as AI can generate incorrect, incomplete, or biased information. Using these technologies requires human oversight and control. Additionally, AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author or cited as an author. If the student uses AI-assisted technologies, a disclosure must appear at the end of the document in a separate section before the references, using the following format.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-Assisted Technologies in the Writing Process

Statement: *During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.*

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Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. When unsure whether a situation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty, you should ask your professor for clarification. If you are guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero (0) will be given for the quiz, assignment, etc. Cases may also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the University.

You are encouraged to review the tutorials and suggested websites for more information about plagiarism. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult:

The [University Academic Dishonesty Policy](#)

The website [Plagiarism.Org](#), or

The professor

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this course whether intentional or not. By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a *limited right* in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The *limited right* includes but not limited to the right to reproduce the students work product to verify originality and authenticity and for educational purposes.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, (940) 397-4140. Documentation of disability from a competent professional is required.

GRADUATE COMPETENCIES

Graduates of the MSRS program should be able to:

- Use knowledge of current and future trends and well-developed skills to lead a medical imaging department, teach in a radiologic sciences program, or perform advanced clinical procedures.
- Use critical thinking strategies and communication skills to develop an ethical and legal framework for the resolution of concerns and issues in radiologic administration, education, or advanced clinical practice.
- Demonstrate leadership skills and knowledge of the political process to effect change within administration, education, or advanced clinical practice settings.

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- Evaluate, design, and conduct research studies for the improvement of radiologic science administration, education, or advanced clinical practice.
- Demonstrate a sound academic foundation to support lifelong learning and to prepare for future matriculation in post-master or doctoral programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

Unresolved issues related to this course should be first addressed between the student and the course instructors. If there is no resolution, students must follow this sequence:

Interim Department Chair – Dr. Lynette Watts (940) 397.4833

College Dean – Dr. Jeff Killion (940) 397.4594

Dean of Students – Mr. Matthew Park (940) 397.7500

Senate Bill 11 Senate Bill 11, passed by the 84th Texas Legislature, allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the [University's campus carry webpage](#). If you have questions or concerns, please get in touch with MSU Interim Chief of Police [Steven Callarman](#) by email at steven.callarman@msutexas.edu.

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)