

Minimum Standards for Review of Student Research

Akamai University

University Position Statement

Akamai University understands and supports the need for research on all fronts of the human experience, from the arts and humanities, religious and spiritual arenas of ideas, theoretical concepts to the concrete world of hard political and business decisions. The scope of our graduate student research reaches from the realm of public health and disease control to the recognition of the whole person in the healing process and from the study of the depth of human psyche to the community as an incubator of social and psychological health. Our research scope also spans the essential areas of environmental and life science. Our student research ventures encourage the development of new technological systems addressing the need for global communication and educational systems to bring each world citizen the knowledge to empower themselves to change their world. Akamai University's research philosophy, then, is to create and organize new knowledge and systems toward the amelioration of major world problems, improvement of the human condition and sustainability of the planet. We permit theses and dissertations following the quantitative and qualitative, as well as the theoretical and participatory action research modes.

Students are expected to comprehend the critical features of sound research, be it qualitative, quantitative, theoretical or participatory. As applicable, student must adhere to quality protocols for subject selection, research design, and statistical analysis in order to develop a sound dissertation or project proposal. Students will be expected to define an applied problem or theoretical issue to investigate, articulate a rationale for the study of the problem or issue, and formally propose and implement a quantitative or qualitative method of evaluation of the issue or theoretical discussion of the problem or idea. Students will demonstrate the ability to complete a thorough scholarly literature review on the topic they wish to present and they are encouraged to select research methodologies that assure valid and reliable evaluations of the effects of variables on individuals or groups being studied. The intent is to ensure that students have the competency to examine applied or theoretical issues in their fields of study and implement programs of intervention that are cogent, scholarly, and make an original contribution to the body of information available in their fields. Each student must clearly address issues related to research with human subjects and live animals and pass an IRB faculty review.

Minimum Research Standards for Graduate Student Research

In conducting reviews of the compliance of student research with the minimum standards of higher education worldwide, there are a number of expectations that are assessed and scored in the process of faculty review. Initially, a research problem is to be clearly defined, and it must sit within the scope of the discipline and clearly demonstrate a research project at the graduate level. The research must be fully grounded in relevant theories and concepts from peer reviewed published scholarly research papers, which are discussed in a powerful literature review and reflect comprehensive mastery of the research and writings in the discipline and area of research.

The student research Review Committee will assess the research questions; including the hypothesis, design, and methodology to assure an effective alignment with research standards in the field of study. The research design, sampling, data collection, instruments; and data analysis will also be reviewed to assure they align with the research questions. Reviewers will assure the study has aligned the purpose, problem statement, research questions, and methodology

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All Akamai studies, as is the case with most research universities, expect that student studies define implications for social advancement at the organizational, local, societal or global levels. The reviewers will assess the findings, that they are correctly aligned with the research questions, the study design, and analysis. Additionally, the reviewers will review the conclusions, limitations, and recommendations to assure they are clearly stated, fall correctly within the scope of the study, and are integrated with the review of the scholarly literature. A final expectation for student research is an assurance by the reviewers that the student has effectively defended the research project, its methodology, and its findings.

Minimum Quality for Graduate Student Research

The faculty reviewers of graduate research at Akamai University should adhere to minimum quality expectations in moving their students toward an approved research manuscript. The faculty reviewers must assure that the writing quality meets professional publishable quality standards and that documentation of sources, citations and referencing of the scholarly literature meets professional standards and that the overall manuscript flows smoothly with bridging between ideas.

The Akamai faculty reviewers assess the research project and manuscript to assure it fully demonstrates and effectively contributes to human advancement and sustainability of the planet. This element is in direct alignment with the founding mission of the University.

Reviewers carefully evaluate the study to determine it has strength of inquiry with a well defined academic argument, and established critical thinking. Further, the reviewers seek to assure the study demonstrates good scientific reasoning, has intact theoretical and conceptual frameworks, and that the methods are correctly applied in the study.

The faculty reviewers examine the study to assure it contributes in a meaningful manner to the field of study, fully reflects an understanding of academic literature in the field, validates the strengths of the student's knowledge within the field of study and has potential for dissemination.

Finally, reviewers of student research gather overall impressions from the quality of the study, that it is creative, meaningful, and exhibits original thought, has potential to impact the field of study, and assures the reviewers that graduate standards for quality research have been met.

Reviewer Forms

Akamai University faculty reviewers of graduate student research, theses and dissertations, make use the evaluation form entitled: [Minimum Standards and Quality Rubric for Graduate Student Research](#) at Akamai University, which accompanies this document. The completed form is sent to the University administration, together with the Degree Record Form upon completion of the student's program. An approved and signed copy of the research abstract is also requested.

---Dr. Douglass Capogrossi (2014)