

# QUALITATIVE RESEARCH - GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

College of Education Health and Human Services  
School of Foundations, Leadership and Administration  
[www.kent.edu/ehhs/fla](http://www.kent.edu/ehhs/fla)

## About This Program

The Qualitative Research graduate certificate provides advanced training in research methods, data analysis and theoretical approaches to qualitative research across a variety of disciplines. Whether you are a graduate student seeking to enhance your research skills or a professional looking to expand your expertise, this program will help you achieve your goals. Read more...

## Contact Information

- **Sheryl Chatfield** | [schatf1@kent.edu](mailto:schatf1@kent.edu) | 330-672-3945
- **Tricia Niesz** | [tniesz@kent.edu](mailto:tniesz@kent.edu) | 330-672-0591
- Connect with an Admissions Counselor: U.S. Student | International Student

## Program Delivery

- **Delivery:**
  - In person
- **Location:**
  - Kent Campus

## Examples of Possible Careers and Salaries\*

### Area, ethnic, and cultural studies teachers, postsecondary

- 4.9% about as fast as the average
- 13,400 number of jobs
- \$78,840 potential earnings

### Education teachers, postsecondary

- 4.8% about as fast as the average
- 77,300 number of jobs
- \$65,440 potential earnings

### Social sciences teachers, postsecondary, all other

- -0.3% little or no change
- 19,300 number of jobs
- \$69,340 potential earnings

### Social scientists and related workers, all other

- 0.8% little or no change
- 38,800 number of jobs
- \$87,260 potential earnings

### Sociologists

- 3.6% about as fast as the average
- 3,200 number of jobs
- \$86,110 potential earnings

### Survey researchers

- -3.7% decline
- 12,200 number of jobs
- \$59,870 potential earnings

### Additional Careers

- Epidemiology investigator
- Rural sociologist

\* Source of occupation titles and labor data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook. Data comprises projected percent change in employment over the next 10 years; nation-wide employment numbers; and the yearly median wage at which half of the workers in the occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less.

For more information about graduate admissions, visit the graduate admission website. For more information on international admissions, visit the international admission website.

## Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 2.750 undergraduate GPA on a 4.000-point scale
- Official transcript(s)
- Résumé
- Goal statement
- Two letters of recommendations
- English language proficiency - all international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions to waive) by earning one of the following:<sup>1</sup>
  - Minimum 79 TOEFL iBT score
  - Minimum 6.5 IELTS score
  - Minimum 58 PTE score
  - Minimum 110 DET score

Review of applications will be handled by one of the certificate co-coordinators, who will also evaluate prerequisites (if substitute syllabi are submitted by student).

<sup>1</sup> International applicants who do not meet the above test scores will not be considered for admission.

## Application Deadlines

- **Fall Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Spring Semester**
  - Rolling admissions
- **Summer Term**
  - Rolling admissions

## Program Requirements

### Certificate Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Certificate Requirements</b>		
Introductory Elective, choose from the following: <sup>1</sup>		3
COMM 65040	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION	
GEOG 60900	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY	
POL 60010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS	
SBS 63010	QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH	
SOC 62219	QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
RMS 65516	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	
Research Design/Analysis Electives, choose from the following:		6
COMM 65040	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN COMMUNICATION	
GEOG 60900	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS IN GEOGRAPHY	
NURS 70742	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	
POL 60010	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS	
RMS 65516	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH DESIGN	
RMS 85518	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	
SBS 63010	QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH	
SBS 63011	QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS	
SOC 62219	QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
SOC 62221	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY	
Certificate Electives, choose from the following: <sup>2</sup>		9
CULT 60050	HUMANITIES-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN EDUCATION	
GEOG 52053	GEOGRAPHIES OF MEMORY AND HERITAGE	
MUS 63283	RESEARCH IN MUSIC EDUCATION	
MUS 63285	PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION	
MUS 63286	SOCIOLOGY OF MUSIC EDUCATION	
NURS 70742	ADVANCED QUALITATIVE METHODS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	
RMS 65522	BASICS OF QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWING	
RMS 65530	PRACTITIONER INQUIRY	
RMS 65533	INTRODUCTION TO NARRATIVE INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS	
RMS 68795	SPECIAL TOPICS IN EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT	
RMS 85520	MIXED METHODS RESEARCH	
RMS 85540	GROUNDEN THEORY AND PHENOMENOLOGICAL RESEARCH	
RMS 85550	ETHNOGRAPHY AND CASE STUDY RESEARCH	
RMS 85560	CRITICAL SOCIAL RESEARCH	
RMS 88795	SPECIAL TOPICS: EVALUATION AND MEASUREMENT	
SBS 60030	CODING FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
SBS 60040	TRANSCRIBING INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP INTERVIEWS FOR QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	
<b>Minimum Total Credit Hours:</b>		<b>18</b>

- <sup>1</sup> These courses can be used to fulfill the requirement for other required courses if the following conditions are met: (1) the course was not previously taken to fulfill the required first course requirement; (2) the course is outside of the student's primary major or degree area.
- <sup>2</sup> Other courses that may be applied toward this elective requirement are special topics and independent study courses offered by faculty/departments with courses represented by the certificate—or in Anthropology (ANTH), Computer Science (CS), Interior Design (ID) or in others—as approved by a program co-coordinator.

## Graduation Requirements

Minimum Certificate GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
3.000	3.000

- Students declared in a doctoral degree should enroll in the doctoral-level version of these courses if offered.
- Prior coursework may be counted for all requirements, as long as it is substantially similar as judged by syllabi from the course and is less than six years old at time of earning the certificate. Students may substitute courses at the discretion of the program coordinators.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Argue for the value of qualitative methodological approaches and help others understand the value of this form of inquiry to enhance understanding within their respective fields.
- Critique and review a wide variety of qualitative research in their respective fields.
- Create and enact a variety of forms of high-quality, ethical qualitative research in their respective fields.

## Graduate Certificate Policy for the College of Education, Health and Human Services

- Students seeking a graduate certificate must maintain a minimum 3.000 grade point average. A graduate certificate student who receives a combination of more than 8 credit hours of B- or lower grades, or more than 4 credit hours of grades lower than C is subject to dismissal. Students who are unable to maintain academic standards of the College are subject to dismissal for academic reasons. Grades of C- or below are not counted toward completion of the certificate.
- Certificates must be completed within six years after the first graduate enrollment.
- No more than 2 credit hours of workshop may be used toward a certificate.
- Before being eligible to be awarded a Certificate, students must be admitted to the Certificate program.
- Students currently in a graduate degree program may also apply to a certificate program. Their degree seeking coursework may be applied to the certificate coursework with advisor approval. The courses must be completed within six years and satisfy certificate course requirements.
- Students who have a previous graduate degree and are not currently seeking another graduate degree may transfer a maximum 6 credit hours with advisor approval. These credits may include hours from another KSU program, or from another accredited institution, if the

following conditions are met: (1) courses were at the graduate level; (2) a grade of "A" or "B" was earned; (3) credit will be less than six years old at the time the certificate is conferred at Kent; and (4) student was admitted as a graduate student at the time the course was taken.

- Some program areas may be more restrictive. Students are advised to consult their program.

## Full Description

The Qualitative Research graduate certificate is for students who wish to improve their ability to design, conduct, analyze and quality-assess qualitative approaches to research used in the context of funded research, educational assessment, program evaluation, critical, creative, exploratory or theoretical endeavors or other applications.

The courses in this program offer students inter- and trans-disciplinary opportunities to learn and develop skills in qualitative methodologies, including grounded theory, phenomenology, ethnography and descriptive approach; as well as methods, including observation, interviewing, transcription, data analysis, use of software, analytic memoing and others.