Qualitative Research Program

Mission

The mission of the Qualitative Research Program at the University of Georgia is to advance scholarship in interdisciplinary social science research and evaluation and prepare qualitative research and evaluation methodologists. Besides being a renowned center for scholarship and pedagogy in qualitative and mixed methods approaches, the program is committed to cultural, intellectual, and methodological diversity and fosters the development and implementation of its students’ and faculty’s unique epistemological perspectives. Through its Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies and the Qualitative Research and Evaluation Methodologies (QREM) Ph.D., the program develops scholars and methodologists who are prepared to contribute to the advancement of innovative theories and methods used in qualitative research and program evaluation designs. Methodologists examine, critique, and contribute to the theoretical, methodological, ethical, and practical scholarship that guide research and evaluation practice. Graduates of the certificate and Ph.D. programs have the knowledge and skills to design, critique, and implement high quality research and evaluation studies, are proficient in a variety of research methods and theoretical perspectives, demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate the findings from qualitative studies to intended audiences, and are able to design and conduct a study using qualitative methods in real-world settings.

Community Practices

The Qualitative Research Program:

• advances the field of interdisciplinary qualitative research design and methods, such as archival and historical methods, arts-based inquiry, autoethnography, case study, discourse analysis, ethnomethodological analysis of texts and talk-in-interaction, hermeneutics, mixed methods design, narrative methods, participatory action research, phenomenology, poststructural approaches, and qualitative evaluation;
• prepares exceptional teachers of theoretically grounded research design;
• provides coursework and mentoring for students who apply qualitative approaches in their fields;
• provides a solid foundation in traditional, as well as new and emerging, theories and methods;
• fosters interdisciplinary research design perspectives by serving students from different disciplinary backgrounds, assigning readings
from diverse perspectives and disciplines, and creating collaborative scholarly environments in the classroom and beyond;

- provides real-world opportunities to develop and practice the skills necessary to pursue careers as research methodologists and evaluation specialists in higher education, corporations, and non-profit agencies.

**Faculty and Students in the Program:**

- aspire to be conscientious and committed researchers, teachers, advisors, and mentors;
- are dedicated to the well-being of everyone in the program by regularly sharing scholarly and instructional resources, providing networking and support, and working to maintain a collaborative and respectful professional environment;
- regularly contribute to the development of the fields of qualitative research or program evaluation through scholarly publications on qualitative or mixed methods theory and methods, by regularly participating in local, national, and international meetings and conferences, and through the offering of professional development workshops.