A brief description of the overall purpose of KAM VII

The purpose of this KAM is to familiarize our students with the entire range of scientific/research process, including its logical-epistemological foundations, the broad range of both the quantitative and qualitative research methods, and the technique of using one or more of these methods in designing research projects. These objectives are further spelled out below.

Breadth

The requirements of this component are similar to that of the breadth in other KAMs. As you may recall, the breadth is always about theoretical foundations of the discipline of the KAM concerned. What are the theoretical foundations of scientific/objective inquiry? The answer to this question can be found in the philosophy of science, the logic of scientific discovery, and epistemological roots of knowledge. For example, you can discuss the difference between the natural/empirical, social, and the human sciences; explore the logic of rationality and its limitations in scientific discourse; the role of the subjective and objective in the process of discovery; the difference and the connections between deduction and induction; the role of theory in research; the difference between empiricism, positivism, and realism; the nomothetic and idiographic modes of explanation; etc. The demonstration of competence here can be met by a 30- page scholarly discourse on these and related issues. You will be assisted in the search for appropriate literature in this area of knowledge by following the lead from one or more of the sources suggested at the end of this brief, as well as with assistance from the KAM assessor.

Depth

AMDS 8720 is equivalent to the depth component in other KAMs. You are required to demonstrate competency through a 25-30 page essay comparing and contrasting the strengths and weaknesses of a wide range of commonly used research methods in the social and behavioral sciences. It is advisable to classify these methods according to two broad categories: quantitative and qualitative methods or modes of inquiry, for the two branches have their own distinct principles and prerogatives. The decision to include or exclude an annotated bibliography in this component may be made in consultation with the KAM assessor. If it is recommended, the length of the essay may be reduced.

Application
This component is about demonstration of competence in how to actually design a research project. By the time our students are attempting to complete KAM VII they are about finished with their course and/or KAM work and are ready to embark on the exciting challenge of constructing their own dissertation proposals. AMDS 8730 is the opportunity to do so. This can be done by designing a 20-25 page prototype of the proposal that may be developed further into a full-scale proposal for the dissertation research, by briefly identifying a problem for the research, the research purpose, research questions, theoretical foundations of the proposed research, and the suggested methodology to conduct the research. This preliminary or prototype proposal does not necessary have to develop into your dissertation proposal though; any researchable idea may be used to complete the application requirement of this KAM. But it makes sense to use this opportunity to start thinking and laying the foundation for the dissertation proposal. You may be assisted in meeting this requirement by your assessor and the Walden University’s one-page prospectus form.

Note: Please try to clearly demarcate the demonstrations as explained above for each component in order to avoid redundancy between breadth, depth, and application, at the same time that you construct the entire KAM as an integrated document on the subject matter discussed. The document must correspond to the Walden approved APA form and style manual, along with appropriate table of contents and references separately for each section.

Startup references

1. On the logic of scientific inquiry


2. On research methods


