

Statistics for Social Sciences Course Description

Faculty: of Educational Sciences

Study program: Bachelor in Social Work and Psychology

Course Title: Statistics for Social Sciences

Course Credits: 5

Language of Instruction: Albanian

Course Description: describe the course content, purpose, contributions, etc and what the learner may expect if enrolled in the course.

Statistics for social sciences is a module delivered at the Department of Psychology and Social Work and is intended to be understandable and at the same time an introduction to the basic concepts of statistics.

This course aims to explain the main statistical analyzes used by students of social and psychological sciences and in general any student who aims to understand statistical analyses. The examples in this subject are different but generally aim to analyze people. This course examines some important statistical techniques and explains how and why they are used.

The reason why this subject is necessary for the profile of social work and psychology has to do with the fact that it helps to analyze experimental data. Formulas, seemingly loaded and complex, are actually logical and make sense, but above all they help the understanding of theories in the social and psychological sciences. There is a tendency among students to view statistical tests as difficult and complex. In general, this comes from the fact that often students know the formulas for the calculations of the tests, but they do not know "why" and "how" the tests are what they are.

The key to statistical tests is understanding "how" and "why" they were developed, what and how they aim to accomplish. Contrary to theories and explanations of human behavior and experiences which by their very nature are subject to ongoing debate, statistical tests are simply techniques that can be used as needed. A statistical test is a tool, like many others, and thus can be used intelligently or not. But like any other tool, it takes some time to understand how and why it works in a certain way, and to master its use.

Course Goals: Describe a practical purpose for the course, often are or relate to core competences. These are general learning outcomes

The reason why this course is necessary for the psychology and social work academic profile is related to the fact that it helps to analyze the data of social and economic aspects of the society: unemployment, attitudes, social values, behaviors, beliefs and incentives to mention a few. There is a growing trend in the use of statistical softwares and big data to analyze social phenomena in general and part of this program is dedicated to the applied aspect of statistics to advance quantitative research methods and thus prepare students for primary research in their

assignments, course and diploma thesis. In addition, the ability to use statistical packages is a strong point of training in any of the social sciences educational backgrounds.

Course Requirements: List and describe the assessments which contribute to course score. (May include exams, portfolios, participation, attendance, papers, oral reports, group projects, assignments, etc.)

In this module, the part of mathematical calculations is covered by the statistical software for social sciences SPSS, and the emphasis is placed on the application and interpretation of knowledge in research and practical situations related to society and the Albanian context in general according to these directions or group of main subjects: (i) psychometric constructs measurements through scales/inventories, primary research with survey research, and main psychological frameworks; (ii) Secondary research using data from European Social Surveys, Public Opinion (RCC), and administrative data such as Census and LFS (iii) univariate, bivariate, and multivariate statistical analysis (iv) experimental research and difference-in-differences statistical techniques

Grading: Indicate how a final course grade (including credit/no credit) will be assigned

Participation in seminars: 10%

Individual coursework: 30%

Final exam: 60%

Course Schedule: Course frequency

The Schedule of Activities is subject to change. Lecture sessions are 3 hours per week and seminar sessions are 1 hour per week throughout the second semester (15 weeks in total) of the 1st academic year of studies.