

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

EDUC/PSY 6600 Pretest Policy & Instructions

There are two prerequisites for enrollment in EDUC/PSY 6600 (Research Design and Analysis I). The first is the successful completion of EDUC/PSYCH 6570, which is a graduate level course in research methods. Alternative graduate-level research methods courses must have approval to be counted as a prerequisite for EDUC/PSY 6600. The second prerequisite for EDUC/PSY 6600 is mastery of the content of Psychology 2800 (Psychological Statistics). EDUC/PSY 6600 is a graduate-level statistics course that requires prior knowledge of basic statistical concepts. In EDUC/PSY 6600, students are required not only to read research findings and understand the analyses used, but also apply their skills at a higher level. Students who have not mastered the PSY 2800 content typically struggle with the content of EDUC/PSY 6600 and place an undue burden on the instructor, who must help them learn concepts they should have mastered previously. As an additional consequence, other students are disadvantaged because the time the instructor spends on remediation detracts from the time necessary to teach all of the EDUC/PSY 6600 objectives.

To address the problems created by class members who lack the prerequisite knowledge, beginning spring semester 2005, prior to enrolling in EDUC/PSY 6600, all students will be required to pass a pretest covering the content of PSY 2800. The test must be passed before the first day of the semester, but within a year of the semester in which the student wants to enroll in EDUC/PSY 6600. A student must obtain at least 70% correct to enroll in EDUC/PSY 6600. Students who do not pass the pretest on the first attempt may take it up to two more times. Students who do not pass on the third attempt will have to wait until the next semester to take the pretest and enroll in EDUC/PSY 6600. The pretest consists of 30 randomly-selected multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will have one hour to complete the test. Results of the test will be available immediately. Students also receive immediate feedback about the areas in which they missed items (e.g., standard scores, measures of central tendency, correlation). Although notes, calculators, or other electronic devices are not permitted during the pretest, plain scratch paper and a pencil/pen are allowed. A study guide and a practice pretest with answers are available online at <http://www.cehs.usu.edu/ors/6600.htm>. Although the pretest is not specific to any text, students who need additional preparation for the pretest may review *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences* (5th Ed.) by Gravetter and Wallnau.

The pretest is administered through the USU Testing, Assessment, and Remediation Laboratory (TARLab: <http://tarlab.usu.edu/htm/educpsy-6600-assessment-examination>), located on the main campus of Utah State University (ESLC 131). However, distance students may take the pretest at the nearest USU extension campus (see Extension link on TARLab website: <http://tarlab.usu.edu/htm/extension>). Directions to the TARLab and its schedule are located at: <http://tarlab.usu.edu>. In order to take the pretest, students should go to the TARLab or USU distance education site with their student ID, and tell the staff that they need to take the EDUC/PSY 6600 pretest. Please note, the TARLab is generally closed to open testing during university breaks (see schedule on TARLab web site). Students planning to take the pretest at a USU extension location may need to contact the site to make appointment to take the pretest. Please check with the TARLab well in advance to ensure that their facilities will be available for taking the pretest at the desired time and to also allow for multiple pretest attempts in case it is necessary before the beginning of the semester. USU extension sites are also available to students living in Logan if the TARLab is closed.

The Psychology Department Advisor (tressa.haderlie@usu.edu) can verify completion of the 6600 pretest and the EDUC/PSY 6570 prerequisite, and open registration for EDUC/PSY 6600.