Your play book to keep you on track during the research process!

### DEFINE THE PROBLEM

**Alien Observer**

**Make Toast**

**Oblique Strategies**

### REVIEW EXISTING LITERATURE

There are dozens of journals and hundreds of scholarly articles published on the topic of higher education, but here are some safe bets that are specific to the field of academic advising.

Peer reviewed open access publications:

- The Mentor- [https://journals.psu.edu/mentor](https://journals.psu.edu/mentor)
- NACADA Journal- [https://nacadajournal.org/](https://nacadajournal.org/)
- Journal of Academic Advising- [https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/jaa](https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/jaa)
- NACADA Review- Academic Advising Praxis and Perspectives- [https://newprairiepress.org/nacadareview/](https://newprairiepress.org/nacadareview/) **Coming soon!**
Other ideas for (free!) existing sources of information:

- NACADA Clearinghouse- [https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Clearinghouse.aspx](https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Clearinghouse.aspx)
- NACADA Center for Research- [https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Research-Center.aspx](https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Research-Center.aspx)
- NACADA Nerds- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/nacadaresearch/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nacadaresearch/)

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<th>Source You Found</th>
<th>Applicable Data/Findings/Notes</th>
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**HYPOTHESIS CREATION**

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<th>Independent Variable</th>
<th>Operationalize it!</th>
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<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable(s)</th>
<th>Operationalize it!</th>
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Hypothesis
RESEARCH DESIGN & DATA COLLECTION

Remember to ask yourself these critical questions:

- Do I want qualitative or quantitative data? Both?
- Do I need Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval?
- What/who is my sample?
- Who will be collecting data & are there FERPA or other confidentiality concerns?
- What is my timeframe for collecting data?
- Do I expect any costs (paper, printing, space)?
- Do I need/want/have access to statistical analysis?
- Can I offer any incentives to participants?
- What is an acceptable participation rate?

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<td>Sample/Population</td>
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<td>Expected Time Frame</td>
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SHARE YOUR FINDINGS

YOU can make a difference by conducting research and sharing your findings with your department, colleagues, institution, and NACADA! Here are just a few possible avenues:

Locally
- Your department & co-workers
  - Staff meetings, department newsletters, brown-bag lunch
- Your college or university
  - Staff/faculty development workshops, university relations/communications, student newspaper, guest speaker in classes

NACADA- [https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources.aspx](https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources.aspx)
- Academic Advising Today (ezine)
- NACADA Blog
- NACADA Review: academic advising praxis & perspectives
- NACADA journal
- NACADA book publications
- Present at a conference!
$$$$! You can get funding from NACADA by applying for a research grant at https://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Research-Related/ResearchGrant.aspx

- **Scholarly Inquiry in Academic Advising**- a comprehensive book on the research process. Available to members for $40, non-members for $65.

- **NACADA Research Symposium**- the annual two-day seminar can help you work on an action plan for a specific project or teach skills for administrators hoping to implement/organize research locally. 3 new eTutorials coming out soon and a face-to-face symposium is planned for 2020.

- **Tableau**- you may be eligible for a free one-year licensed version as a student, teacher, or non-commercial academic researcher at tableau.com—it helps you create nice looking visuals for all that data you’ve found!

- **NACADA Research listserv**- join by sending an email to listserv@listserv.ksu.edu
  - In the body of the message type “SUB N-RESEARCH-L” Your first and last name (ex: SUB N-RESEARCH-L Brighton Brooks). Make sure to delete any automatic signatures or special formatting.

- **Statistical Analysis suggestions**- Start by checking with the Math/Statistics department of your college and/or any students-in-research programs (sometimes students *need* projects to work on in order to practice!) There are also many consulting services available out there, at a cost. Ask your fellow NACADA members for recommendations!