

## **Research Information Competence Skills Assessment (RICSA) Description**

Please read over the following description of the Research Competencies being assessed based on a research paper, proposal or thesis. Please use the rubric following this description to rate the extent to which each of the Research Competencies is evident in the students work:

### **1) Evidence that student can apply standards to critically evaluate the authority, timeliness and reliability of information in a variety of sources, including online and nontraditional sources. Includes demonstration of ability to:**

- Evaluate an author's expertise, educational background or affiliations with educational institutions or organizations when determining the author's credibility.
- Apply criteria to establish the relevance, authority and timeliness of all sources
- Recognize that source that are "peer reviewed" are more credible within the research community than sources that are not peer reviewed
- Compare consistency of information across sources

### **2) Evidence that student can prepare and execute a sophisticated search strategy, utilizing appropriate hard copy, electronic and online databases and other resources for individual paper topics. Includes demonstration of ability to:**

- Prepare a statement of purpose.
- Incorporate multiple types of information (eg., background, statistics, reviews, research studies) and information sources (e.g. primary and secondary sources, general and specialized encyclopedias and dictionaries, handbooks), including appropriate electronic databases (eg., ERIC, PsychINFO)
- Utilize databases with appropriate dates of coverage and that most closely cover the topic
- Identify and use databases for specialized sources of information such as technical reports, pre-publications, legal and government information.
- Acquire articles available at CSUN and through interlibrary loan.

### **3) Evidence that student can use APA style and format appropriately, especially citation and reference forms, includes demonstration of ability to:**

- Use APA style to quote and paraphrase information.
- Use APA style correctly for citations in the text and reference list
- Use APA format for title page, abstract, tables, figures, headings / subheadings, etc.

### **4) Evidence that student can apply ethical and legal standards for use of data and information includes demonstration of ability to:**

- Apply principles of intellectual property, privacy, copyright, information security and plagiarism and use information in an ethical manner.
- Apply ethical standards regarding treatment of human subjects and confidentiality.

## Rubric for Evaluation of Research Information Competence Skills Assessment

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Please refer to “Research Information Competence Skills Assessment (RICSA) Description” before completing the following rubric for students’ research paper, proposal or thesis.

Students should be provided with the “Research Information Competence Skills Assessment (RICSA) Description” prior to completing their research paper, proposal or thesis.

	1	2	3	4	5	Score
<b>1) critical evaluation</b>	Little or no critical eval. of sources	Minimal eval. and multiple criteria not applied	Some eval. using multiple criteria, but little consistency across sources	Adequate eval. using multiple criteria w/some consistency across sources	Exemplary consistent critical evaluation across all sources	
<b>2) search strategy</b>	Little or no evidence of sophisticated search strategy	Lack of specific problem statement & minimal coverage of topic	Lack of specific problem statement <b>or</b> minimal coverage of topic	Adequate problem statement & topic coverage w/multiple info. types <b>or</b> sources	Exemplary problem statement and coverage of topic w/multiple info. types <b>and</b> sources	
<b>3) APA style &amp; format</b>	Little or no conformation to APA format / style	Many substantial consistent APA errors	Some minor consistent APA errors	Few APA errors, none consistent	Exemplary APA format / style throughout	
<b>4) ethical and legal standards</b>	Little or no application of standards	Substantial misapplication of ethical & legal standards	Some misapplication of ethical <b>or</b> legal standards	Adequate application of all ethical & legal standards	Exemplary application of all ethical & legal standards	
<b>Total→</b>						

Additional Comments: