**Getting Started with Education Research**

**Topic: (Guiding questions)**

What within the realm of education interests me?

What I am passionate about?

Is there a phenomenon(a) that I have observed that I would like to empirically test?

Is there something I would like to try in an educational setting?

**Research Question: (Guiding question)**

What specific question will I attempt to answer in my study?

**Theoretical/Conceptual Framework: (Guiding questions)**

What specific “lens” will I use to view my data and make sense of my results?

What is the “hook” that warrants investigation of my topic?

**Locating Relevant Literature: (Guiding questions)**

What databases, websites, resources, etc. will I need to access to thoroughly explore what has been previously done?

What keywords might help me identify literature relating to my topic?

**Potential Barriers/Roadblocks: (Guiding question)**

What factors can I anticipate might impact my ability to execute my study?

(Factors might consist of things such as: Legal and ethical considerations, changing environments, politics, program variability, person variability, complexity of research problem, methodological difficulties, funding, time, etc.)

**Methodology: (Guiding questions)**

What research design might be most appropriate/feasible?

(Examples might include: Experiment, Case study, Causal, Cohort (retrospective or prospective), Correlational, Cross-sectional, Descriptive, Exploratory, Observational, Longitudinal, Archival, Meta-analysis, Simulation, Something else?)

What types of data will I need?

Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed (both quantitative and qualitative)

How might I collect data?

Survey, Test, Observation, Interview, Focus Group, Historical Records, etc.

**IRB Approval: (Guiding question)**

Will I need to obtain IRB approval/exemption?

If yes, visit[**https://research.ncsu.edu/sparcs/compliance/irb/**](https://research.ncsu.edu/sparcs/compliance/irb/)for more information.

**Funding: (Guiding question)**

Will I need funding? If yes, where will I get it?

What elements of my study can I do by myself?

What elements will require outside assistance/expertise?

**Local Resources:**

For help with any/all aspects of your education project reach out to Ken Royal ([kdroyal2@ncsu.edu](mailto:kdroyal2@ncsu.edu)) and schedule an appointment to talk.