

Online Appendix.

Table 7a: Ranking of self-**competence** score for items assessing ability to plan and conduct research

Research competence domain	Mean score (SD)
Statistical analyses using software (e.g. STATA, SPSS, Epi Info)	2.66 (± 1.0)
Choosing and applying appropriate inferential statistical tests and methods	2.69 (± 0.9)
Outlining detailed statistical plans to be used in data analyses	2.89 (± 0.9)
Writing research proposal or developing a protocol	2.91 (± 1.0)
Writing a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal	2.92 (± 1.0)
Formulating research hypotheses and research questions	2.99 (± 1.0)
Proposing appropriate study designs or methods	3.00 (± 0.8)
Determining outcome measures (variables to measure)	3.01 (± 0.9)
Ethical considerations	3.08 (± 1.0)
Designing a data collection form	3.09 (± 1.0)
Developing and validating a study instrument (e.g. questionnaire)	3.10 (± 0.9)
Choosing an appropriate sampling technique (e.g. random sampling)	3.12 (± 0.9)
Collecting relevant data using preplanned data collection forms	3.14 (± 0.9)
Managing and storing data including data entry into a database	3.15 (± 1.0)
Critically reviewing research literature	3.18 (± 1.0)
Determine appropriate sample size	3.24 (± 0.8)
Interpretation of the findings and determining the significance of obtained results	3.25 (± 0.9)
Defining target population, sample and eligibility criteria	3.27 (± 0.8)
Summarizing data in tables or charts	3.29 (± 1.1)
Conception of research idea	3.34 (± 0.8)
Preparing a presentation (oral or poster)	3.43 (± 1.0)
Searching the literature efficiently	3.55 (± 0.9)

SD = standard deviation

Table 8a: Predictors of moderate to extreme self-competence score

Variable	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Gender (Male)	1.653	0.653 – 4.186	0.289
Years of experience (0 – 5 years)			
Years of experience (6 – 10 years)	1.564	0.580 – 4.218	0.377
Years of experience (11 – 15 years)	0.403	0.106 – 1.533	0.182
Years of experience (> 15 years)	2.931	0.696 – 12.339	0.142
Previous research experience	2.494	0.833 – 7.464	0.102
Previous research related training	1.151	0.408 – 3.246	0.791
At least 1 peer-reviewed journal article	6.822	1.977 – 23.537	0.02
At least 1 poster/abstract in local conference since last 5 years	0.597	0.146 – 2.449	0.474
At least 1 poster/abstract in International conference since last 5 years	2.793	0.586 – 13.313	0.197

Table 7b: Ranking of mean self-perceived **confidence score** for items assessing ability to plan and conduct research

Research confidence domain	Mean score (SD)
Statistical analyses using software (e.g. STATA, SPSS, Epi Info)	2.88 (± 1.0)
Choosing and applying appropriate inferential statistical tests and methods	2.90 (± 1.0)
Outlining detailed statistical plans to be used in data analyses	2.97 (± 1.1)
Writing a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal	3.04 (± 1.1)
Proposing appropriate study designs or methods	3.10 (± 1.0)
Determining outcome measures (variables to measure)	3.17 (± 0.9)
Choosing an appropriate sampling technique (e.g. random sampling)	3.20 (± 0.9)
Managing and storing data including data entry into a database	3.20 (± 1.0)
Writing research proposal or developing a protocol	3.22 (± 0.9)
Designing a data collection form	3.22 (± 1.0)
Developing and validating a study instrument (e.g. questionnaire)	3.22 (± 1.0)
Determine appropriate sample size	3.24 (± 0.9)
Ethical considerations	3.25 (± 1.0)
Formulating research hypotheses and research questions	3.27 (± 0.9)
Defining target population, sample and eligibility criteria	3.31 (± 0.9)
Collecting relevant data using preplanned data collection forms	3.34 (± 0.9)
Interpretation of the findings and determining the significance of obtained results	3.37 (± 1.1)
Summarizing data in tables or charts	3.40 (± 0.9)
Preparing a presentation (oral or poster)	3.42 (± 1.0)
Critically reviewing research literature	3.44 (± 0.8)
Conception of research idea	3.51 (± 0.8)
Searching the literature efficiently	3.60 (± 0.9)

SD = standard deviation

Table 8b: Predictors of moderate to extreme self-confidence scores

Variable	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Gender (Male)	2.339	0.919 – 5.951	0.074
Years of experience (0 – 5 years)			
Years of experience (6 – 10 years)	2.313	0.819 – 6.527	0.113
Years of experience (11 – 15 years)	0.555	0.158 – 1.951	0.358
Years of experience (> 15 years)	1.242	0.317 – 4.860	0.756
Previous research experience	1.453	0.507 – 4.165	0.487
Previous research related training	1.403	0.488 – 4.034	0.530
At least 1 peer-reviewed journal article	5.013	1.336 – 18.811	0.017
At least 1 poster/abstract in local conference since last 5 years	1.078	0.238 – 4.876	0.923
At least 1 poster/abstract in International conference since last 5 years	1.886	0.342 – 10.407	0.467