WAYNE STATE
School of Social Work

September Panel Evaluation
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The Social Work Student Research Community (SWSRC) hosted a panel of social work practitioners on September 26, 2018 at Wayne State University. The panel consisted of five social work practitioners who currently use research in their field. The purpose was to help social work students understand the importance of applying research in practice. A total of 53 students attended the panel while 38 students completed an evaluation, a response rate of 72%.

Students rated their confidence and knowledge on a scale of 1 – least confidence/knowledge to 4 – most confidence/knowledge.

A majority (86%) of the group had mild to moderate confidence (rating of 2-3) in their research abilities.
63% of the students wanted to get a better understanding of how research applied to professional social work, which was the goal of this panel.

It is interesting to note that 29% of students wanted a better understanding of SPSS while 77% of students reported they are least confident in quantitative analysis in Excel and SPSS (see below).

Which areas of research do you feel least confident?
(N=26, multiple responses per participant)

- Quantitative analysis in Excel or SPSS: 77%
- Interpreting your findings in reports and papers: 50%
- Qualitative analysis (ex: coding interviews): 27%
- Designing questions/choosing scales for data collection: 19%
- Matching your research question with a research design: 19%
- Distinguishing the difference between independent and dependent variables: 15%
- Other: 8%

No written responses were given re: “Other”. 
Overall, a majority (84%) of the group were satisfied with the Social Work Student Research Community Panel.
Any other feedback or suggestions? (N=11, multiple responses per participant)

“Great conversation! It was really interesting to hear everything.”
“Keep up the good work :-(”

General positive feedback (n=5)

“Panel was very informative & hearing from people in different fields & what each experience gives incredible insight into the world of SW from different perspectives”

“Insight on Perspectives (n=2)

“I really liked all the different backgrounds of the people on the panel. It gave perspectives of the application & use of research on all levels micro, mezzo, & macro”

Questions asked to presenters (n=2)

“1. Don’t have every member of the panel answer every question, maybe have specific people for each question. …”

“I didn’t feel like we actually talked about research itself, I felt like we talked about the process of being a good social worker”

Unique uncategorized response (n=1)

What factors will affect your future participation with the Social Work Student Research Community? (N=11, multiple responses per participant)

“Work & studies. TIME”

“Credit/Incentive (n=3)

“My time management between school, work, and family.”

“Time (n=6)

“…Credit for participation”

“It was nice we got the extra credit but I will in the future because I found it very interesting.”

Unique uncategorized responses (n=3)

“Many different factors to choose from, but Research is honestly something I need to take more seriously.”

“Are research opportunities available or will we be participating in research? → just information?”