

## Course Project Pilot Study

**Overview** For this assignment, you will carry out a pilot study and write a brief report on how this goes. The goal of a pilot study is to test your study design on a very small sample before committing to gathering a full data set from a larger sample. Your report should summarize what went well and what changes, if any, you will make to your study design based on your pilot study experience.

Submit your pilot study report by Friday, November 7.

### Suggestions

- I'll provide feedback on your study design proposal by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 29.
- You can test survey questions and techniques on willing volunteers rather than on randomly selected subjects.
- Pay attention to how much time is required to collect data for your pilot study. Feasibility in terms of time will be one criterion you use in determining a final sample size.
- You will need to stay organized as you start collecting data in a pilot study and the full study. Choose a place to record everything you do, from notes on your ideas at this stage to data from the full study and everything in between.
- Come talk with me or send e-mail if you have questions or want help thinking things through.

**Looking ahead** Here's a rough outline of project steps with tentative deadlines:

- Pilot study progress report due Friday, November 7.
- Descriptive statistics report on your full data set due Friday, December 5.
- Final report due Friday, December 19 (at scheduled final exam time).