



October 16, 2023

Via Email

TO: Online Education (RFP) Respondents
FROM: Erik Cooper, Assistant Vice Chancellor Data, Visualization, and Research
RE: Questions and Responses to Online Education RFP

Question	Answer
<p>The introduction in the "Purpose and Scope of Work" section states "The successful research team shall study state and local policies, relevant institutional data, and conduct a randomized controlled trial to shed light on campus-specific activities, instruction, and student engagement, access gaps, and outcomes." However, in Question 3, which is the only one to specifically mention a type of research design, the choice of methods seems to be broader, including studies that meet the What Works Clearinghouse standards with or without reservations. If we were to approach Question 3 using a non-RCT method (but other strong study design as outlined in the WWC standards), would an RCT be required to answer one of the other questions? Or would a proposal that did not include an RCT component be competitive as long as reasonable research approaches were used for all research questions?</p>	<p>The legislation that is funding this research specifically notes the use of a randomized control trial in question number 3. The Chancellor’s Office recognizes that an RCT may be difficult under typical college conditions and is interested in hearing approaches, in addition to an RCT, such as those in the What Works Clearinghouse, that may help answer the primary research questions. Given the requirements of the legislation, proposals that include a reasonably achievable RCT would allow for stronger conclusions to be drawn but given the challenges of executing an RCT we welcome submissions that propose other options that support the ability to draw such conclusions</p>
<p>There are a lot of distinct research questions proposed in section 4. Must a successful proposal respond to all of those questions, or is the intent to encourage teams to identify a subset or questions that they could successfully answer? (I assume that answering more questions is better, but we just want to have a sense of whether a proposal would be effectively disregarded if not all questions were addressed, given the potential need to</p>	<p>The legislation that is funding this research specifically notes that these are questions that shall be answered. While a successful submission might not fully address all the questions as part of the submission, the awardee should expect to have these questions as part of the agreed upon scope of work.</p>

Chancellor’s Office, Workforce and Economic Development Division

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use distinct research methods and data collection from several different populations to answer all of the questions successfully.)	
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