The Department of Educational Studies assessment plan focuses on senior students’ abilities to select, implement, and provide a rationale for research methods employed in their thesis, the department’s senior comprehensive requirement. In the thesis, students are expected to address a research question by: 1) anchoring it in the relevant research literature(s); 2) using appropriate methods to collect data; 3) analyzing and critiquing these data; and 4) explaining how their findings complement, extend, and/or refute the literature reviewed. Questions that inform the proposed assessment plan include: How much support do students require in order to use effective methodologies to address the research question they pose? Where in the curricular and/or extracurricular offerings (e.g. summer research) are they learning to make informed choices about selecting and using research methods? What aspects of the curricular and/or extracurricular offerings could be changed in order to improve student performance in this aspect of the senior comprehensive? In which areas/on what competencies are students most easily successful? In which areas do they struggle? Are there patterns that emerge in the analysis of the work of different groups of students (e.g. those pursuing certification versus those pursuing policy research)? The proposed assessment plan has three parts. First, members of the department will develop a rubric for assessing the students’ selection, implementation, and rationale for the methods employed in their theses. They will use student work from previous years to develop the rubric and will use the rubric to assess work being conducted presently. Second, members of the department will discuss course assignments to determine how research methods are taught in each course, and how students are prepared for the comprehensive. Finally, members of the department will both examine the thesis work of a subsample of students and interview them about methods: those learned in coursework, those for which they feel they need the most support, and those on which they feel that they needed additional support.