

## Learning Guide – Longitudinal Designs

### Questions based on slides and deVaus.

1. What is the difference between aggregate and individual change?
2. If you are only interested in **aggregate** change over time, is a longitudinal design necessarily the best design? What other design could you use in this case?
3. What is the difference between a prospective and a retrospective design?
4. How does the multiple point prospective panel design differ from the simple prospective panel design? Why would you want multiple points?
5. Why does the “drop out” phenomenon pose a threat to internal and external validity in longitudinal designs?
6. What is replacement? How does replacement threaten internal validity?
7. What is the rotating panel design? How does the use of a rotating panel design help solve the drop out problem?
8. What is a cohort? The term cohort does not necessarily refer to age, although your text seems to imply that it does. Other examples could be students (the 2012 cohort of incoming freshmen) or athletes in the Olympics (the 2012 cohort of Olympic athletes).
9. What is a single cohort design? Why is it difficult to distinguish between historical and developmental effects with the single cohort design?
10. What is a multiple cohort design? Which threats to internal validity are reduced by using a multiple cohort design?
11. Describe the retrospective panel design. Why do people use retrospective designs?