

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Critical Assessment and Inquiry for Social Uplift

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12 Graduate Credits	4 Sequential Courses	Dual Transformation	CAISU Portfolio	Open-Source Tools	Inaugural Cohort
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Transform Your Research. Transform Yourself.

Critical Quantitative Inquiry (CQI) is impossible without measures developed from a critical lens. The critical measure and the critical study are co-dependent. CAISU is the only program that trains Critical Assessment Developers to build assessments that make possible Critical quantitative inquiry.

Research Transformation

Master critical assessment development through the four-framework synthesis: QuantCrit, Disjuncture-Response Dialectic, Sociocultural Theory, and Wilson's Constructing Measures. Build validated instruments using Community Cultural Wealth and advanced psychometrics (MRCMLM).

Personal Transformation

Document your learning journey towards confidence in quantification. Articulate your professional identity as a Critical Assessment Developer. Chart your pathways forward.

Broader Field and Community Impacts

Field Impact

Because no other program offers this perspective, you'll transform your field of research. Your instruments replace deficit measures with liberation measures, enabling ethical quantitative inquiry.

Community Impact

Build assessments that measure what communities value, not what external models assume. Your work advances social uplift by creating infrastructure for liberatory research.

What You'll Be Able to Do

- Design and validate culturally specific assessment instruments from scratch
- Lead institutional assessment reform grounded in social justice
- Publish methods papers in top-tier academic journals
- Advance to doctoral programs with a dissertation-ready CAISU Portfolio
- Consult on equity-focused assessment design for organizations

Who Should Apply

Primary Audience: Qualitative researchers with critical theoretical backgrounds seeking to build their skills in quantification while maintaining their justice commitments.

- **Doctoral Students:** Build validated CAISU Portfolio as dissertation foundation
- **HBCU/Indigenous Leaders:** Create instruments measuring community strengths
- **Public Health Professionals:** Build resilience-focused, trauma-informed measures
- **Educational Researchers:** Transform methods to serve social justice

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (any field) with strong academic record
- Statement of purpose addressing transformation goals and social justice commitment
- Writing sample or research example demonstrating critical thinking
- Two professional or academic references

Four-Course Sequential Curriculum

Course	Description
CAISU 701 Foundations of Critical Educational Assessment	Introduces the four theoretical frameworks: QuantCrit, Disjuncture-Response Dialectic, Sociocultural Theory, and Wilson's Constructing Measures. Students examine how traditional assessment perpetuates oppression through measurement disjuncture and explore culturally specific assessment as intellectual amplification. Key concepts include the five QuantCrit tenets, Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Design, and developmental alignment. Students build conceptual foundations for developing assessment instruments that serve justice rather than reproduce inequality.
CAISU 702 Qualitative Methods for Critical Assessment Development	Operationalizes the Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Design using Community Cultural Wealth as the pedagogical framework. Students name their specific cultural context, search literature for participant voices describing the six forms of capital, and extract authentic quotes as rubric exemplars. Students learn dichotomous and polytomous developmental rubrics representing Vygotsky's progressions, creating multidimensional instruments grounded in community epistemologies.
CAISU 703 Modern Measurement for Critical Educational Assessment	Provides technical psychometric training using Modern Measurement Theory grounded in Wilson's Constructing Measures framework. Students learn why MRCMLM is necessary for CCW's interconnected forms of capital. Through comparative analysis of unidimensional and multidimensional approaches using simulated datasets and open-source software (R, Jamovi), students produce rigorous psychometric documentation confirming their instruments function as intended within the named worldview.
CAISU 704 CAISU Portfolio Development	This capstone returns students to the purpose of assessment work: conducting critical quantitative research for social uplift. Students complete their CAISU Portfolio by synthesizing their validated instrument with psychometric documentation, designing a research proposal emphasizing instrument development methodology, and composing a learning journey narrative. Students produce a doctoral-ready artifact demonstrating mastery as Critical Assessment Developers.

CAISU Portfolio

- **Validated Instrument:** Complete assessment with construct map, psychometric documentation, and evidence confirming the instrument functions as intended within the named worldview
- **Research Proposal:** Research proposal for conducting critical quantitative research using your validated instrument. Includes introduction, literature review with methodology section, and detailed methods describing instrument deployment in your research study
- **Learning Journey Narrative:** Reflective narrative documenting your transformation as a Critical Assessment Developer, towards methodological mastery and commitment to justice-oriented research

Theoretical Foundation

CAISU synthesizes **four frameworks**: Disjuncture-Response Dialectic (Sul, 2024) frames research as response to oppression; Critical Quantitative Theory (Gillborn et al., 2018) treats numbers as political; Sociocultural Theory (Vygotsky, 1978) models developmental progression; Constructing Measures (Wilson, 2008) provides technical rigor through Modern Measurement Theory. These four frameworks form the program's methodological foundation. Students apply this methodology using Community Cultural Wealth (Yosso, 2005) as the pedagogical framework, which provides accessible constructs for learning assessment development. Bourdieu's cultural capital theory provides contextual understanding of social reproduction and the measurement disjuncture being addressed.

Optional Specialization Tracks

Indigenous Education • HBCU Mission • Public Health Trauma • Multilingual Education • Caribbean Education • Critical Dance

Next Steps: Express Your Interest

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Interest Form: encuestasurvey.com/social-uplift-certificate-interest