



Lesson 2: Frequency Tables

Definition: A frequency table is a tabular method used to organize and summarize raw data by showing how often each unique value or category occurs in a dataset.

Purpose in Research:

- To simplify large sets of data
- To make patterns easier to observe
- To prepare data for visual presentation (e.g., graphs)

Components of a Frequency Table:

Category or Value	Frequency
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Example (Qualitative Data):

Survey responses for favorite fruit:

Raw data: Apple, Banana, Apple, Mango, Banana, Apple

Fruit	Frequency
Apple	3
Banana	2
Mango	1

Example (Quantitative Data):

Test scores: 75, 80, 80, 85, 75, 90, 80

Score	Frequency
75	2
80	3
85	1
90	1



Tabular and Graphical Presentation Rules in Research

Tabular Presentation Rules:

1. Title: Add a clear, descriptive title above the table.
2. Labels: Clearly label all columns and rows.
3. Organization: Sort categories logically (e.g., alphabetically, by frequency, or by value).
4. Clarity: Use consistent formatting (e.g., font, spacing) for readability.
5. Units (if needed): Indicate units of measurement for numeric data.

Graphical Presentation Rules:

1. Title: Provide a concise title describing what the graph shows.
2. Axes Labels: Label x-axis (categories) and y-axis (frequencies or percentages).
3. Scales: Choose appropriate and consistent scales.
4. Design Simplicity: Avoid clutter. Use colors or patterns to enhance—not confuse—understanding.
5. Legend (if needed): Include a legend for multi-category or comparative charts.

How to Convert Raw Data into Frequency Tables

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. Collect Raw Data:
Example:
Red, Blue, Green, Red, Blue, Red
2. Identify Unique Categories or Values:
→ Red, Blue, Green
3. Count Frequency for Each Category:
 - Red: 3
 - Blue: 2
 - Green: 1



OSMEÑA COLLEGES

College of Computer Science

City of Masbate: 5400, Philippines

Email Address: occollegeofcomputerscience@gmail.com

4. Create the Frequency Table:

Color Frequency

Red 3

Blue 2

Green 1

Use frequency tables to:

- Summarize survey responses (e.g., gender, preferences)
- Describe demographics (e.g., age ranges, locations)
- Present initial findings before applying statistical tests