

**FIGURE 7.1****Selecting Samples From Populations**

Ask a question about a population.

Example: How good is your score on an exam compared to the mean performance in your class?

**POPULATION**

Identify all individuals of interest who were identified by the question.

Example: All students who took the exam in your class.

Observations made in the sample are generalized to the population.

Example: You compare your grade to the mean grade in the sample to determine how well you did in your class (the population).

**SAMPLE**

Select a portion of individuals from the population and measure a sample statistic identified by the question.

Example: Select a few students in your class and record their grades on the exam.

In inferential statistics, researchers use the sample statistics they measure in a sample to make inferences about the characteristics, or population parameters, in a population of interest.