

## Research Requirement

The primary focus of the behavioral sciences is research and its application, so it is important for students to get some first hand experience on how research is conducted. To this end, a research component is included as part of this course. You may fulfill this requirement either by participating in one or more research studies, by completing short research papers, or through a combination of both.

This document explains how to fulfill the Introductory Psychology Research requirement and how to earn additional bonus points that will be added to your grade. Note that there may be additional announcements in class regarding your participation.

### What is Required?

**AS PART OF PSYCHOLOGY 121 YOU ARE REQUIRED TO EARN A MINIMUM OF Six (6) RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS. The six required credits will count for approximately 6% of your final grade in the course (24 points of your course grade)!**

**YOU CAN ALSO EARN EXTRA RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS.** Think of these additional (bonus) participation credits as “extra credit” points that can be earned in addition to the 6 participation credits that are required. These additional participation credits count toward your total points in the course and will only affect your grade positively. Your instructor will determine the limit on extra points that can be added to your course grade.

### How do I Earn Six Participation Points?

**YOU CAN EARN YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS IN TWO WAYS:**

1. You can participate in psychological research studies. If you choose to do this, you get **one credit for each half hour that you participate in a study (30 minutes = 1 participation credit [4 course points])**.
2. You can write research papers about psychology studies published in a journal (**1 page = 2 participation credits [8 course points]**).

### What do I do If I have any Problems?

If you should ever have any problems connected with research participation, research papers, or participation credits (this includes situations where you feel you have been treated unfairly), we want to hear from you. Please contact the Research Pool Manager (contact information is posted on the psychology department web page [www.radford.edu/~psyc-web](http://www.radford.edu/~psyc-web)). All complaints are held in strict confidence.

## The Research Study Option

### How Do I Sign Up?

You can sign up for research studies by using the SONA website, which can be accessed through “**Research Participation Information: SONA**” link on the department webpage at <http://www.radford.edu/~psyc-web>. There you will find additional information about how to login and use the SONA website. Be sure to read and follow all of the directions in the **Student Guide for Registering For Research** listed on the **Information for Students** page of the **Psychology Research Participation Information** website.

### Will Any Study Count?

**ALL studies posted on the SONA website** are eligible for participation points. However, **ONLY studies posted on the SONA website** are eligible for participation points.

### What are My Responsibilities?

**WHEN YOU CANNOT KEEP YOUR RESEARCH STUDY APPOINTMENT:** You can cancel your study online no less than 12 hours prior to the study. If you have an emergency and can not attend, you must contact the researcher directly (their contact info is included with the sign up information).

**PENALTY CREDIT FOR MISSING APPOINTMENT:** If you fail to keep an appointment and have not cancelled online or by contacting the researcher prior to the appointment, a **penalty credit will be assessed**. One participation credit will be subtracted from the number of participation credits you have accumulated. **This will increase the number of participation credits that you have to earn to satisfy the class requirement.**

**BE ON TIME FOR THE APPOINTMENT!** To maintain study validity, the researcher cannot allow people to come in late in most studies

**BRING AN ID AND PARENTAL CONSENT FORM.** EVEN IF YOU ARE OVER 18, YOU MUST BRING YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE – or some other ID that has both a **PHOTO AND YOUR BIRTH-DATE** to every research study (RU ID will not work). If you are not yet 18 years OLD, you must *ALSO* bring your copy of your *PARENTAL INFORMED CONSENT FORM*.

**WHEN YOU ARE AT THE RESEARCH STUDY:**

1. You will be given a **consent form** to read and sign. KEEP YOUR COPY OF THE CONSENT FORM as proof of your participation should complications arise about your research participation credits. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask the researcher about them.
2. You have the **RIGHT TO REFUSE** to participate or to stop participating at any time during the research study. There are no penalties for exercising these rights.
3. **COURTEOUS, RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR:** The research study sessions are PART OF YOUR INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY COURSE. YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING A RESEARCH STUDY IN THE SAME WAY YOU SHOULD BEHAVE DURING AN EXAM IN YOUR INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY COURSE. Any behavior that disrupts a research study even slightly is a violation of the *Standards of Student Conduct!*

**KEEP TRACK OF YOUR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDIT**

1. KEEP ALL INFORMATION FROM ALL OF THE STUDIES YOU PARTICIPATE IN until you get your final course grade.
2. If two weeks have passed from the date of your participation and your research participation credit total is still not correct, contact the Subject Pool Manager (contact information is posted at [www.radford.edu/~psyc-web](http://www.radford.edu/~psyc-web)). When reporting problems, be sure to include the time, day, and location that you participated; the name or number of the study; and the researchers name (all of this information should be listed on the consent form).

**When is the Deadline for Participation?**

There is a deadline, after which no credits from studies will be accepted. **The deadline is the last day of classes preceding finals week (Fall 2008— Dec 12<sup>th</sup>; Spring 2009 — May 1<sup>st</sup>).** However, be alert for changes in the deadline that might need to be made for this particular semester. As noted above, research studies can start to wind down before the deadline. If you wait too long before starting to earn your credits, you may not be able to get them.

**What if I am not 18 yet?**

**IF YOU ARE NOT YET 18 YEARS OF AGE, YOU MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH STUDIES WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.** This is a matter of U.S. laws and regulations. If you are under 18, you will need to complete the following steps to obtain permission from your parent or guardian. You should start the process at the beginning of the semester as the forms will take time to complete.

- 1) Go to the Psychology Department Office (Russell Hall, room 334) during regular business hours. Typically the office is open 8-5, Monday through Friday.
- 2) Complete an "Under-18 Student Research Participation Form." You will need your student ID # and your permanent and local contact information for this, so be sure to bring this information with you [i.e., phone, addresses (including parent/guardian address), email etc.).
- 3) Pick up a Parental Consent Packet that you will send to your parent or guardian, which contains a letter of explanation, three copies of the Parental Consent Forms, a business reply envelope, and a copy of the course policies regarding the Research Requirement.

4) Send the Parental Consent Packet to your parents or guardian. If you mail it to them, it would be a good idea to tell them that it is coming.

If your parent(s)/guardian consents to your participating in research studies as part of Introductory Psychology, they will sign the forms and return two of them (they keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> for their records) to the Department of Psychology in the business reply envelope provided.

5) Once the Research Pool Manager receives your signed forms, you will be contacted via email. Pick up one copy of the signed consent forms (we will keep one for our records). You will pick up your copy from the Psychology Department office (Russell Hall, room 334) during regular business hours.

6) **Carry your copy of the signed Informed Consent form with you to all experiments, along with a photo ID that gives your birth date. Your RU ID will NOT work for this, as it does not report your birth date.**

## The Research Paper Option

This alternative for earning research participation credits involves reading and writing about published psychological studies. The idea is to do some reading about psychological research beyond what is in your textbook. You may combine credits from research papers and study participation for the required six (6) credits and extra credit points.

### How do I Participate in the Research Paper Option?

1. Choose a Psychology-related JOURNAL ARTICLE. Journals published by the American Psychological Association are very good. A few examples of relevant journals are *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Child Development*. Popular magazines such as *Psychology Today* are NOT ACCEPTABLE for research papers. Similarly, "articles," brochures, and news releases from the [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) website are NOT ACCEPTABLE. The staff at the Library Reference Desk are very helpful and can assist you in locating journals. **The article that you select should be at least 3 pages long in the journal.** If you have questions about the acceptability of a particular article, please contact the Research Pool Manager (contact information is posted on the psychology department web page: [www.radford.edu/~psyc-web](http://www.radford.edu/~psyc-web))
2. Read the article and write an account of what you got from it; demonstrating that you have understood the article. Specifically, you should indicate what main research question was asked in the study, and what the authors learned. Your account should be at least **1 page**; about **260 words**. The report should be well written, organized, and grammatically correct. However, it does not have to be a completely polished term paper.
3. The report should be typed or printed from a word processor (**double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins**).
4. On an additional title page, you **must** include this information:
  - o Your name
  - o Your Psych 121 instructor, section number, and class time
  - o Your radford.edu email address
  - o The title of the article you read
  - o The author of the article you read
  - o The name of the journal
  - o The date and/or volume number of the journal (e.g., year and month)
  - o The page numbers of the article in the journal
  - o If on-line, the link to the article
5. Turn in you a copy of your paper to the Research Pool Manager's mailbox located in the Psychology Department Office, Room 334 of Russell Hall. Typically the hours are 8:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. **E-mail submission will not be accepted.** Be sure to keep a copy of your paper. If your paper is lost, it will be your responsibility to resubmit it.

### How Much are Papers Worth?

If the report is acceptable, **you will receive 2 participation credits for each paper you write (this is equivalent to 8 points on your final course grade).**

## Plagiarism?

We check for plagiarism, and plagiarism will result in the filing of formal charges of academic dishonesty in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Standards of Student Conduct* (available on-line at [www.radford.edu/~dos-web/handbook.htm](http://www.radford.edu/~dos-web/handbook.htm) or at the reference desk of McConnell Library).

- Plagiarism is any case (intentional or unintentional) where any part of a report is copied word-for-word from a research article or other source without using appropriate quotation marks and indicating the source and page numbers from which the quote was taken. Also, it is plagiarism when text is paraphrased (ideas are put into your own words) and the source of that material is not paired with the appropriate citation (author and year). The following examples illustrated unacceptable and acceptable examples.

Original Article by McCormic, K., & Marsh, S. (2008):

... Thus, it appears that a direct causal link exists between the time that people spend watching animated cartoon television shows (such as South Park) and their desire to consume orange cheese flavored snack foods (such as Cheesy Poofs).

Unacceptable Plagiarized Excerpt (quoted and paraphrased without appropriate references):

...The authors found that there was a direct causal link between the time that people spent watching South Park and their desire to consume Cheesy Poofs.

Acceptable Quotation with Paraphrasing:

...The authors found that there was “a direct causal link” between watching South Park and wanting to eat Cheesy Poofs (McCormic & Marsh, 2008, p. 18).

Acceptable Paraphrase:

...The authors found that watching South Park causes people to want to eat Cheesy Poofs (McCormic & Marsh, 2008)

- In your article summaries, as long as you are only paraphrasing the article which you are reviewing, then you will not need to include the author and year as that information is included as part of the title page and the reader will know to whom to attribute the information being communicated.

- In all cases of plagiarism, the student will forfeit all research credit and the student's final grade will be reduced by 1 full letter grade.
- The limited use of appropriately referenced quotes is acceptable (1 or 2 at most). However, papers that include continuous strings of quotes will not be accepted, and will be returned for revision.
- If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, appropriate quotations, or appropriate paraphrasing please contact the research pool manger before you turn in your paper (contact information is posted on the psychology department web page: [www.radford.edu/~psyc-web](http://www.radford.edu/~psyc-web)).

## What is the Deadline for Turning in Research Papers?

DEADLINE: There is a deadline, after which no papers will be accepted for research participation credits. The deadline is **5:00 p.m. on the Friday three weeks before the last day of classes (Fall 2008 – Friday Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>; Spring 2009 – Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>)**. Note that this is earlier than the deadline for participating in research studies. Also, if you wanted to get your credits by participating in research and waited so long that many of the studies had ended, you are likely also to be past the deadline for the research paper option!