

## Research Requirement in Intro to Psych

This is a **department** requirement which all instructors of Intro to Psych are asked to incorporate in their sections of Intro to Psych. To better acquaint you with the science of Psychology and how psychological research is done, you are required to earn at least **4 research credits** through Research Participation (Option 1 below) or reading and writing reports about the research methods used in 4 research reports published in the professional journals of psychology (Option 2 below), or any combination of 4 of the above. Experiencing psychological research or reading the professional research reports is quite different from reading about research in our textbook. It is a good idea to start getting these research participation credits (if that is what you choose) since only certain studies will fit your schedule. New studies will continue to be posted all semester long until 12/6/13, so don't panic if you don't immediately find studies to sign up for. The largest number of studies will be posted mid-semester. You also need to plan ahead if you choose to write reports because you can only submit 1 report per week (so will need 4 weeks if you wanted to submit 4 reports).

### OPTION 1: RESEARCH PARTICIPATION CREDITS

Research participation provides a hands-on opportunity to become familiar with how research is conducted. Because you are a student at a university in which faculty are researchers as well as teachers, you have the opportunity to be participant in *real* research studies. You will also have the opportunity to learn more about yourself and your behavior in many of these studies.

**Note: If you are under 18 years of age you may NOT be eligible to participate in some research studies; those that do allow you to participate will require a parental signature to participate.**

This consent form can be requested from the study researcher (their information will be available when you sign up for the study. They will likely send you a parental consent form that you would need to have signed prior to participating in that study.

The research carried out in the psychology department is important to UNI's goal of involving students in hands-on and applied educational experiences, so please treat your participation seriously. All studies are reviewed and approved in advance by the Institutional Review Board at UNI. When you arrive at each study, that study will be explained to you by the researcher and you will have a chance to ask any questions you may have about participation. You will be asked to give your consent to participate.

You earn .5 research credit for studies that require 30 minutes or less, 1 credit for studies that require between 35 and 60 minutes, 2 credits for studies that require between 65-90 minutes, and 3 credits for studies that require 90-120 minutes. Unless otherwise indicated, you can participate only ONCE in a specific study.

**Overview of Signing up for Research Studies:** The Psychology department uses a **WEB-based sign-up system** known as the **SONA** system. All experiments are listed on the Website located at: <https://unipsych.sona-systems.com>. All research credit earned through participation (Option 1) will be recorded on the website.

**To sign up for an account on the Sona System:** [https://unipsych.sona-systems.com/student\\_new\\_user.aspx](https://unipsych.sona-systems.com/student_new_user.aspx)

Once you have an account, go here to sign up to participate in studies: <https://unipsych.sona-systems.com>

OPTION 2: READING A PUBLISHED PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH REPORT AND WRITING A 2 PAGE SUMMARY TO EARN EACH CREDIT

Because we believe that learning about research through participation leads to a better understanding of the research process at an introductory level, we strongly encourage you to earn your research credits through Option 1. Another way to learn about the research process, however, is by reading written reports of research that have already been published. Therefore, you may earn research credit by reading an article published in a professional psychology journal and then summarizing the article in two double-spaced pages. This article summary will be graded by the Psychology Pool Coordinator for this semester. Your article summary will be reviewed by the following set of criteria: a) whether the article summarized is taken from a professional journal in psychology; b) inclusion of thorough and accurate information about the Introduction/Literature Review, Method, Results, and Discussion within the reviewed article; and c) inclusion of one (brief) ending paragraph that summarizes the (student) writer's own conclusions and perspectives about the article.

A little later in the semester we will do a *journal article assignment* that will get you ready to do the Research Methods Paper Alternatives, should you so choose. Instructions are linked to our online syllabus.

There will be lots of research participation opportunities on a variety of topics, at a variety of times of day - continuing all the way through the first week of December. Check the Sona website often to see what new studies are up. I still remember the psych studies that I participated in as a freshman!!

You can earn up to 3 EXTRA research credits (beyond the required 4) to get extra credit points (3 pts per extra research credit).

Linda Walsh

PS

Because we can't "grade" your research participation, both participation credits or paper alternative credits are recorded as "Complete" or "Incomplete". Fulfilling the required 4 credits does not earn you points, but is required to earn a grade in our class. Department policy is to give a student an Incomplete if they have not completed this course requirement, so please be conscientious about meeting the requirement one way or the other!