**Research Requirement**

What is research? Scientists—including those here at Pitt—learn about human thinking and behavior by conducting surveys on relationship satisfaction, testing which study strategies result in the best exam grades, and measuring brain activity as people learn words in a new language, among many others.

One goal of Introduction to Psychology is that, in addition to learning *what* scientists have discovered about psychology, you will also learn *how* psychologists conducted that research.

To see first-hand how psychologists perform research, all students in this course are required by the Department of Psychology to complete a research requirement worth up to 5% of your total grade.

You may complete this research requirement in several ways:

* Participate in approved research studies conducted by professors in the Department of Psychology. Each hour of participation counts as 1% towards the 5% requirement. This is the ***preferred*** option—you will get to see how researchers right here at Pitt are studying psychology, *and* contributing your participation will provide us with valuable scientific knowledge that enhances our understanding of psychology and the world we live in.
* Write brief reports on published psychology research articles. Each article report counts as 1% towards the 5% requirement.
* You can combine research participation and article reports to reach your 5% requirement.

You ***cannot*** earn more than 5% from the research requirement; there is no extra credit for doing additional studies or article reports.

The research requirement **must be completed by 11:59 PM on the Friday of the last week of classes.**

If you already completed some or all of the research requirement as part of the Introduction to Psychology course at Pitt, and are retaking the class this term, e-mail the research coordinator at [subjpool@pitt.edu](mailto:subjpool@pitt.edu) no later than the 2nd week of classes to transfer your credits.

Many common questions are answered on the Research Participation Pool website:

* <http://psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/research-participation-sona-system>

If you still have questions or problems with research participation, please contact the research pool coordinator, Dr. Scott Fraundorf at [subjpool@pitt.edu](mailto:subjpool@pitt.edu), ***not your instructor***. Dr. Fraundorf coordinates the research requirement across all sections of Introduction to Psychology.

**To sign up for research studies:**

To sign up for research studies, visit the Sona Systems website:

* <http://pitt.sona-systems.com>

***Only*** studies from this pitt.sona-systems.com website count towards the research requirement. For example, if you sign up for a paid research study somewhere else on campus (such as the Economics Department's Sona site), you can’t get class credit for that because you are already getting paid.

You can log in to the Sona Systems site using your usual Pitt Passport account.

There is also a Sona Systems ***app*** for your phone or tablet that you can get from the iOS or Android app store. The app uses the same login as the website.

To participate in research studies, ***you must be at least 18 years old***. If you are not 18 years old, you will have to complete the requirement by writing article reports.

**COVID-19 Update:** The available research studies include both studies that are ***in*-*person***and studies that are ***online***. If you attend studies ***in person****,* you must wear a face covering—just as the researchers will be doing for your safety.

Other tips:

* The requirements for each research study are listed on the Sona Systems site. ***Please make certain that you meet the requirements of each study before signing*** ***up***—otherwise they can turn you away!
* ***Don’t be a no-show!*** If you cannot make a scheduled appointment, you must cancel ***at least 24 hours in advance***. Some studies require extensive preparation by the researchers. If you do not show up for two scheduled appointments without canceling, you will no longer be allowed to sign up for research studies and will have to earn the remaining points using the report option.
* ***Don’t do during them during the class time!***  If you cannot find another time that works for you, please contact the experimenter to see if you can find a mutually agreeable time that would not require you to miss class.
* ***Some research studies will not become available* *until later in the semester.***Please be patient and check the web site often for research opportunities.If you are worried about finding enough studies in time, you may consider writing an article report instead.
* If you would like, you can get a ***weekly e-mail listing currently-available studies***. Once you have signed in on the Sona Systems website, click “My Profile” and there is an option at the bottom to receive a weekly e-mail announcement.

**To write article reports**:

Go to this web site for a list of articles and information on what should be included in the report and how to submit it:

* [http://psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/research-participation-sona-system/writing-research-papers](%09http:/psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/research-participation-sona-system/writing-research-papers)

You will submit your article reports to Turnitin, using the folders “Fall 2021 Paper 1,” “Fall 2021 Paper 2,” and so on.

Turnitin checks for plagiarism, so be certain that all of the information is written in your own words. If you are not sure what this entails, please see <http://plagiarism.org>.