General Psychology
Research Exposure Requirement

In order to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for psychological research, all students enrolled in General Psychology (PSYC 101) at Coastal Carolina University are required to earn 5 credits of psychological research exposure during the term. Although the department believes that firsthand participation in psychological research is the most beneficial learning experience, a journal article review alternative is also available. The 5 research exposure credits can be earned in any combination of 1) research experiment participation (credits vary depending on time requirement, 1/2 hour of time=.5 credits, 1 hour of time=1 credit, etc.) and 2) journal article reviews (1 review = 1 credit). The research exposure requirement is due the last week of classes, before final exams. Please note, if you accumulate more than two unexcused NO-SHOWS (not showing up to studies or not canceling appointments in the time indicated) you will not be allowed to use the research pool. Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in a 5% final course grade reduction.

Research Participation
Students may sign up for experiments after creating an online account at http://coastal.sona-systems.com and selecting the course they are enrolled in. There is a link to this site from the psychology department webpage. This is an online experiment management system which allows students to sign-up for experimental sessions and keep track of experimental credits earned.

Some of the studies are available online (surveys) while others will require students to meet at designated places and times on campus. Keeping appointments and meeting the necessary requirements of different studies is the student’s responsibility. There may be credit penalties for not keeping or canceling appointments. Multiple sessions of the same experiment may be run, but students can only participate in any study once for credit.

Titles and descriptions of the experiments are available online. At the beginning of each experimental session, students will be informed what will be required of them and be given the option to continue or not continue at that point. More detailed information about the purpose of the study may be provided at the conclusion of the experiment.

Studies will be posted at different times throughout the semester. The times and number of sessions will vary, so check online regularly as new studies and sessions will be added. The majority of experimental offerings will begin around week 6 of the semester and end around week 12, so plan accordingly.

There are many positive benefits of research participation. Students gain valuable experience learning how psychological research is conducted and see firsthand methods in action. Researchers in the department gain valuable data that increases our understanding of psychology and your contributions may contribute to the development of new research journal publications and professional conference presentations. All research conducted at Coastal Carolina University complies with the ethical code of the American Psychological Association and university institutional review board (IRB) guidelines.

Journal Article Review Alternative
An alternative to actual research participation is writing a journal article review. Each acceptable journal article review is worth 1 credit. To complete a journal article review, locate a psychology journal in the Kimbel library or online through the library website (see list below, note that some journals are more difficult to read than others), read the article, copy/print the first page of the article, and write a review of the research. This response must be typed and must be at least 200 words. You must identify the title of the research, summarize the topic under investigation, and report the study findings. You must identify the research hypothesis, the independent variable, and the dependent variable. How did this article help you learn about psychology and how psychology research is conducted? You must turn in your journal article reviews with a copy of the first page of the article to your individual professor. Your professor may recommend specific journals or articles to assist you.


Extra Credit
Extra credit points for participating in additional psychology research experiments or writing additional journal reviews may be offered by individual professors. The opportunity, amount, and specific requirements are at the discretion of the instructor.

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