

Psychology Research Program (PRP)

Research Requirement for PSY 1013 and 1021

Uncovering the secrets of the human mind is likely the most difficult challenge science has ever undertaken! Psychologists rely heavily on research studies, often conducted with undergraduates as participants, to make new discoveries about human behavior. These humble research studies are carefully designed to reveal new knowledge, like finding a tiny jigsaw piece that fits precisely into an enormous puzzle. We ask for your help in this important enterprise. The advanced undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty conducting this research very much appreciate your efforts in their quest to make discoveries. Perhaps a discovery made in one of your experiments will end up in a Psychology textbook or important scientific journal someday! In addition to participating in research studies, we offer the opportunity to learn more about psychology and the research process by completing activities that we call "research alternatives." We hope that participation in research studies or research alternative activities will provide a window into the science of psychology for you (and we welcome you to major in psychology if you enjoy your psychology classes!).

Each student in PSY 1013 General Psychology and PSY 1021 Careers in Psychology can earn up to 10% of their final grade (one letter grade) by obtaining PRP credits through our Psychology Research Program.

Here is how the program works:

PRP Credits	Course Credit
0 to 0.9	0%
1.0 to 1.9	1%
2.0 to 2.9	3%
3.0 to 5.9	5%
6	10%

To earn the full 10%, you must complete 6 PRP credits. The deadline for obtaining credits is the last day of classes for the semester, the day before Reading Day (December 3rd at 5 PM).

Online and In-Person Studies

Studies are offered both online, and in-person. Though you may complete up to 4 of your required 6 PRP hours by completing online studies, you are required to complete at least 2 of your PRP hours by completing in-person studies if your course is taught in person at the Starkville campus. You may complete more than 2 in-person studies if you wish. Sona will track completed in-person credits and

will only allow you to enroll for the allowed amount of online studies. If you are taking an online course or are on an MSU campus other than Starkville you make complete all 6 hours by completing online studies. All research alternatives will count toward the in-person requirement. If you have a documented reason for why you are unable to complete studies in-person, you may contact the PRP coordinator (prp@psychology.msstate.edu) with university-approved documentation, and will be allowed to complete all of your hours online.

What's in it for me?

Benefits of PRP participation include:

- Learn about psychological research at first hand
- Contribute to a fascinating exploration of the human mind
- Learn about treatments and/or interventions
- Interact with faculty and graduate students
- Obtain course credit

What types of activities will I be doing?

The PRP houses many different types of experiments and activities. Your options include:

- Participating in a research study, either in a lab or online
- Completing a research-based alternate activity, such as attending a research talk, helping with student-led research projects, attending and rating a graduate student's practice lecture, or reading a research article and passing a quiz on the article
- Participating in a simulated clinical psychology experience (this includes mock psychological evaluation or psychotherapy training practice for graduate students).

How do I earn these credits?

1. Log in to the PRP website (<http://msstate.sona-systems.com/>) using your MSU NetID for the username, and your 9-digit MSU ID number for the password.

[Note: If you registered for your class later than the first day of class, you may need to request an account. Do this by clicking "**Request an Account Here**," on the lower-left side of the web page.]

2. You will be asked to complete a series of pre-screen questions. Be sure to answer these as accurately as possible, as this helps to determine which research opportunities you are eligible for.
3. After logging into your account, click the “**Study Sign Up**” or “**Studies**” tab. This will list all of the experiments and research alternatives available at the moment. You may click on the name of an activity both to learn more about it and to choose to participate in that activity.
4. For in-person studies, be sure to write down the date, time, location (building and room number) for the study. For confidentiality reasons, ***the people in the Psychology Main Office will not have this information.*** It is your responsibility to record this information.
5. If you must cancel an appointment, you may do so by clicking the “**My Schedule**” tab after logging into the PRP system, and clicking “**Cancel**” under that research activity. You must cancel an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. **If you do not cancel in time, or if you do not show up at least 5 minutes BEFORE an activity is scheduled to begin, you will not receive credit and instead will receive a “no show.” Students who receive three or more “no shows” will be restricted to only signing up for research alternatives, such as quizzes, for their remaining credits. See the next section for further details.**
6. Federal regulations require that students who are younger than 18 years of age must have parental permission before participating in research. Because of the lengthy approval process, most of our researchers are not able to accommodate students younger than 18. If you haven’t reached your 18th birthday, you should email the PRP coordinator at prp@psychology.msstate.edu about options for obtaining your required credits

What happens when I accumulate 3 or more ‘no shows’?

1. If you fail to attend 3 or more research activities (that is, research studies), the system will automatically restrict your ability to register for PRP activities. Specifically, you will only be able to register for *research alternatives* rather than *research activities*. These alternatives might

require you to complete an online report or read a paper and provide a written summary of the paper.

2. Research alternatives are not scheduled until the last third of the semester, when there is about a month left in the semester. Depending on how early you accumulate three “no-shows”, you might not see any possible research alternatives on the PRP website. *These will be available in time for you to complete your requirement.*
3. You may also *petition to have your research eligibility restored*. Once you reach 3 ‘no-shows’, you may compose and submit a petition explaining why you were not able to attend your scheduled activities and submit that information to the PRP mailbox in the Psychology Department mailroom (Rice Hall, room 113).

If you must cancel an appointment, you may do so by clicking the “**My Schedule**” tab after logging into the PRP system, and clicking “**Cancel**” under that research activity.

Frequently-Asked Questions:

- **Where and when are experiments conducted?**
Some of the experiments are online and you may take them any time, day or night. Others are held in various laboratories, mostly in Rice Hall located off Hardy Road across from the music building (see [MAP](#)). For in-person experiments you sign up for a particular time, with times usually available during the same hours classes are held (9-5 Monday thru Friday). Research alternatives will also be available, some of which can be completed online, whereas others will be in-person.
- **How do I know how many credits I’ve done?**
Log in to your account and click the “My Schedule/Credits” tab.
- **Why don’t I see more studies?**
*Experiments are completed and new ones added throughout the semester. Keep checking back. It is your responsibility to be working towards completing your credits **THROUGHOUT** the semester, so that you are able to meet the requirement. **If you wait until the end of the semester to begin earning credits, you will almost certainly be unable to find sufficient opportunities to complete your requirement.***

- **What if I have a disability that makes it difficult for me to complete the research requirement?**

If you have a disability that would make it difficult to complete the research requirements through the PRP (e.g., are visually impaired, hearing impaired, or unable to climb stairs) notify your instructor and contact the PRP assistant at prp@psychology.msstate.edu BEFORE THE START OF THE SECOND WEEK OF CLASSES, in order to make arrangements for completing this requirement.

- **Where was the experiment being held, again?**

You may find information about the experiments you signed up for under the “My Schedule/Credits” tab (see below). It is your responsibility to write down all pertinent information related to your scheduled experiment, as the Psychology staff will be unable to retrieve this information for you.

- **Can I get extra credit?**

Some instructors will offer extra credit if you complete over and above the required credits for your course. Check your syllabus or ask your instructor for further information, to see if this is offered in your section.

- **Are there any risks to participation?**

Each experiment has been reviewed by the University’s Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects. Considerable care is taken to ensure there is no significant risk of discomfort or harm. Nevertheless, if you decide not to complete an experiment for any reason, you have the right to withdraw at any time without penalty. The informed consent process at the beginning of each experiment will explain how this is done.

- **I showed up on time, but no experimenter was there. How do I get my credit?**

This is a rare situation, but it happens on occasion. Log in to the PRP system and contact the principal investigator for the experiment you were signed up for. Explain what happened. If the experimenter failed to arrive in time for the session, you will receive credit.

- **What if I have more questions?**

If we didn’t cover your question in this document, please contact us at: prp@psychology.msstate.edu.