

Psychology Research Program (PRP)

Research Requirement for PSY 1021

The human brain is the most complex system known to humankind. Uncovering the secrets of the mind is likely the most difficult challenge science has ever undertaken. Psychologists rely heavily on laboratory experiments, typically conducted with undergraduates as participants, to move forward. These humble experiments 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 audacious enterprise through participation in our research. Although the tasks may seem odd or unusual, please do your best. 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 someday. You will also learn a good deal about psychological experimentation, both its strengths and weaknesses. You may also learn something about yourself through this process.

Each student in 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 2.9	1%
3.0 to 3.9	3%
4.0 to 7.9	5%
8	10%

To earn the full 10%, you must complete 8 PRP credits. The deadline for obtaining credits is the last day of classes for the semester, before Reading Day.

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. If this is your first time logging into the system, you will be asked to complete several 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 available experiments and research alternatives. 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. 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.**

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 might want to email the PRP coordinator PRPatMSU@gmail.com about options for obtaining your required credits

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 Magruder Hall (across from Lee Hall and in the vicinity of the Student Union). For in-person experiments, you sign up for a particular time, usually during the same hours classes are held from 9-5 Monday thru Friday. Research alternatives are also available that can be completed via the web at your convenience.
- **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 PRPatMSU@gmail.com 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?**

Your instructor may offer extra credit if you complete over and above the required 8 PRP 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: PRPatMSU@gmail.com.