

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**

To provide students a complete exposure to the science of psychology, each student is required to earn credits of research experience. Although credits can be earned either by participating in research experiments or writing papers about research experiments conducted by others, participating in research projects is a great opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge about how psychological studies generate information. As such, you are encouraged to use this avenue for collecting research credit. However, according to University regulations, you must be 18 years of age or older in order to participate in research experiments. Therefore, if you are under 18, you should consult with your instructor on the requirement.

### **Research Experience FAQ's**

**How do I navigate the REPN (Research Experience Program Newark) web page?** Early in the term, your General Psychology instructor will provide you with information sheets on the REPN and the web page associated with the program. You will be expected to create an account on the web page during the first few weeks of the term. Once you have created an account, you will be able to view a list of available studies, sign up to participate, and receive research credits. If you have questions about the web page, please consult the information sheet distributed by your instructor. The address for the REPN page is <http://osun.sona-systems.com/>.

**How do I find out about Experiments?** After you have created a student account on the REPN page, you will be able to view all of the studies that have timeslots available. Because new studies and new timeslots are added throughout the term, it is in your best interest to check the web page on a regular basis.

**How are Research Experiments graded?** Different research projects are worth various amounts of credit, depending on how long they take (each experiment usually takes approximately 30 minutes and thus is worth 1 credit; a 1-hour experiment will get 2 credits, etc). The number of credits that a study is worth will be listed on the REPN web page.

After you have completed an experiment, a researcher for that experiment will assign credit within 48 hours of its completion. You should receive an email message confirming each research credit that has been given, and it is a good idea for you to save these messages as a way of documenting your research participation. You can also check on the status of your research credits through the REPN page.

**What if I miss an Experiment?** Missing experiments causes difficulties for other students, research assistants, and the faculty. If you need to cancel an experiment, you may do so through the REPN web page. Please cancel as early as possible to avoid accumulating unexcused absences. If you miss too many appointments with an unexcused absence, your account will be blocked, and you may need to complete the requirement with the paper writing option.

**Can I make up experiments I've missed?** If you fail to attend an experiment, you should consult the REPN page and sign up for another experiment or another posted timeslot for the missed experiment. Because of the limited number of experiments available each term, you should do whatever possible to cancel as early as possible if you cannot make it.

**Can I write extra papers or participate in extra research studies?** Extra credit is determined by your individual professor's policy. Please consult your syllabus.

**What if I don't want to participate in any research studies?** Rather than participating in experiments, you have the option to write research papers or alternative activities/assignments approved by your professor. For each paper, you are required to select an article from the last two years in the journal *Psychological Science* and write a 2-3 page paper addressing the four (4) questions indicated below. You must also attach a copy of the front page of the article itself. These articles are available online from campus (<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/by/year>) or from off campus (<http://osu.campusguides.com/content.php?pid=248772&sid=2059627>), and a hardcopy of the most recent issue is available to be copied in the Psychology Lab (Founders 118).

**If I choose the paper option, how do I get credit?** Papers will be due as indicated in your course syllabus. To receive credit, your paper must be typed and have at least four (4) distinct, well-developed paragraphs that explain:

1. What the researcher did
2. What the researcher's results indicated
3. Some personal interpretation of the article (such as how you might apply the findings to your own life, or what new directions future research should take)
4. How does this paper relate to what you are learning in your general psychology class?