

Research Experience Student Guidelines

Research Experience (PSYC 106) provides the student with an opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of how to conduct empirical research under the direction of a faculty member. Typically, the student becomes involved in an on-going research project, often working with a more experienced peer. Student work is more directed (i.e., less independent) than an [Independent Study](#) or [Research Practicum](#). The primary difference between Research Experience and Research Practicum or Independent Study is that Research Experience is only 1/4 credits (P/F), while both Research Practicum and Independent Study are 1 full credit (A/F). *Can be repeated for credit.*

Research Experience is strongly recommended for students who wish to learn more about research in psychology and who may wish to participate in a Research Practicum or Independent Study in the future. Students do not need to be a Psychology major to sign up for Research Experience.

To participate in Research Experience, the student should talk to a faculty member whose research interests are compatible with his or her own (see Department website for faculty research interests). After finding a research mentor, students must complete the [Application for Research in the Department](#) by the first Wednesday of the semester. If approved by the Department, the Department Chair will contact the registrar's office and register you for the course.

Expectations for students

- To work 4-6 hours per week assisting faculty or other students working with the faculty mentor in research. This often will involve literature searches, summaries of primary sources, data collection, data analysis, writing, attending meetings, etc.
- In consultation with the faculty mentor, to complete a *Research Assistant Contract* outlining duties and expectations.
- To complete work on a timely basis.
- To treat all data as confidential. Data should never be taken home or stored on personal laptops, PCs, flash drives, etc.
- To write a 1-3 page reflection paper at the end of the semester.

Expectations for faculty

- To enumerate expectations for the research assistant using a *Research Assistant Contract*. This should include expectations about hours, deadlines, duties, meetings, specific outcomes, and behavior.
- To provide guidelines and a due date for the final reflection paper (see *Student Research Reflection Guidelines* for an example).

Ethical Considerations

The student is expected to follow APA guidelines concerning ethical treatment of research participants. These include such matters as consent and confidentiality for human participants and humane care for animal subjects. The student is also expected to follow Departmental procedures for obtaining human participants. The student is also expected to maintain the integrity expected of a scientist. Falsification of data and plagiarism are violations of academic integrity.