

## Research Practicum Student Guidelines

**Research Practicum (PSYC 306)** provides the student with an opportunity to conduct empirical research under the direction of a faculty member. Typically, the student becomes involved in an on-going research project sometimes with a peer. Student work is more directed (i.e., less independent) than [Independent Study](#), which also involves student research. Research Practicum is a full credit course taken for a grade (A/F). *Can be repeated for credit.*

Research Practicum is strongly recommended for students who plan to attend graduate school in any of the research areas of psychology. Admission criteria for M.A. and Ph.D. programs often include research experience, and one's likelihood of acceptance into a competitive program is enhanced by having a record of research participation.

**To participate in Research Practicum**, the student must have an overall GPA and a Psychology GPA of at least 2.50, unless special permission is granted by the Psychology faculty.

To enroll in 306, the student should talk to a faculty member whose research interests are compatible with his or her own (see the 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. Once completed, send the Research Practicum Application to your mentor. 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 12-13 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 3-5 page reflection paper at the end of the semester.
- To potentially write a research proposal (if you are planning to enroll in Independent Study the following semester).
- Your grade will be based on fulfilling these expectations and any other expectations and goals outlined in your *Research Assistant Contract*. If you are required to write a paper, your paper is expected to be at or above the quality level of the *Research Proposal (EXAMPLE)* available on the [Research Practicum website](#).
- To seek out help with writing, study design, data entry/analysis, etc. when needed (from your research mentor, other faculty, other research assistants, the writing center, the library, etc.).

### 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 (e.g., Research Proposal), and behavior.
- To provide guidelines and a due date for the final reflection paper (see *Student Research Reflection Guidelines* for an example).
- To provide guidelines, feedback, and a due date for a research proposal (if applicable).
- To provide feedback and assistance with writing, study design, data entry/analysis, etc. when needed.

**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.

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