**How do I get my research participation credits?**

Part of your course grade is based on your out-of-class participation as a subject in studies within the psychology department. If active study participation doesn’t work for you, we offer an alternative: the readings option. Both options will give you further exposure to the topics and methods of psychology. This document describes how to get those credits, with an [FAQ](#FAQ) list at the end.

*To fully complete the research requirement, you need to earn 5 participation credits*. These can come from participating in research as a subject, from participating in the readings option, or some combination of the two.

*The research requirement counts 5% of your final grade; if you complete all five credits, then 5% of your grade is 100.* This can make a substantial difference in your grade.

We use a software to manage studies and credits, termed SONA. SONA can be accessed from your computer or pad at <https://roanoke.sona-systems.com/> and you can now download the SONA app for both Android and iPhone. Students will be assigned SONA accounts around the end of the first week of class, linked to your Roanoke College email account. Any SONA-relevant emails will come from [roanoke-admin@sona-systems.net](mailto:roanoke-admin@sona-systems.net); be sure to regularly check your email. If you still don’t have a notification email by the end of the second week of the semester (around January 26th or so), check your junk email folder and if it’s not there, email Dr. Allen at allen@roanoke.edu.

Use your SONA account to check for available studies, sign up (or cancel a signup) for studies and readings quizzes, check the location and time of a study you’ve signed up for, and review your credits. SONA will also send you reminder emails prior to studies, confirmation afterwards, and the occasional general information message.

You can earn research credits through participating in studies through the deadline of April 12. There will be a couple of weeks afterwards in which you can use the readings quiz option, up through the last day of class, April 23.

**Option 1: research participation**

We encourage you to obtain your credits by participating in studies. During the semester, psychology faculty and psychology students (under faculty supervision) conduct research studies. Most of the information in your text has come from research done by faculty and students at colleges and universities. We depend upon the voluntary participation of psychology students; i.e., you. It’s an easy, time-effective, and interesting way to improve your grade.

At Roanoke, our experiments must receive ethical approval before they are conducted. You should feel comfortable that you will not be exposed to any danger or harm; however, if you do feel uncomfortable you may cease participation in a study at any time. You will always receive credit for a good-faith attempt at participation.

If you are viewing the landing page for SONA, you’ll see if there are studies available or not. When you login, you’ll see many options, most of which are self-evident. You’ll only see studies for timeslots that are available. Some studies are lab studies, meaning that you come to a lab or classroom space at an appointed time and do whatever tasks the study involves (rating a film, completing a memory task, that sort of thing). Other studies are online studies: you log on at any time before the date shown and complete a survey or questionnaire. The credit value is based on how long the study takes; minimum is .5 credits. Lab studies are worth twice as many credits as online studies: an online study that lasts 20 minutes is worth .5 credits but a lab study that lasts 20 minutes is worth a full credit. This is to compensate you for the time and effort involved in getting to the lab study as well as the participation.

Review available studies, check the times and any requirements (such as gender, upperclassman standing, etc.). There are studies posted throughout the semester, with the majority posted a week or so after fall or spring break. For the most part, all studies for Spring 2024, but some will end earlier.

**For a lab study:**  A study that has a designated location is a lab study. Sign up for a time slot that fits your schedule and **put the time, location (see map at the end of this document) and study name along with the researcher names (you might need to email the researcher if you cancel late) in your calendar**. The SONA system will send you a confirmation email when you sign up for a study and/or cancel it. It will also send you a reminder email the day before your study session. You can check the name, location and time of the study session through SONA should you forget them. Once the study is over, your credit will be posted to SONA within a day or so.

Unless you are explicitly told otherwise, do not sign up for any study you’ve already participated in; do not sign up for multiple sections of the same study. The researchers cannot use two sets of data from the same subject. If you sign up for a study but didn’t participate, then you can sign up for it again.

Show up: Once you sign up for a lab study, you are expected to attend, or to cancel as soon as reasonably possible. Signing up and then not showing up inconveniences the experimenter (who, after all, is a fellow student) and may deny other students a place in the study. Sometimes a study requires significant setting up and if you don’t show up, the setup was for naught. If you need to cancel, you may be able to do this on the website if it is far enough in advance of the study. If this is impossible, you need to email the researchers. In these cases, the researchers can count you as an excused no-show.

Show up ON TIME. You can’t participate if the study has already started, and often the researchers have the room only for a limited time and cannot afford to delay start time. If you’re even five minutes late, you may be counted as a no-show. If you have the researcher’s contact info and you’re late, by all means let them know.

If you accumulate 3 unexcused no-shows, you will be blocked from signing up for more studies this semester. You will still be able to earn credits through reading quizzes, and you can complete studies that you had signed up before getting the “blocked” notification.

The Psychology Department views the experimenter's obligation to you with similar importance. If you show up on time for an experiment and find that no one is there, check to see that you are at the right place, at the right time, and on the right date. If you are sure that you are where you are supposed to be but find no one there, email me at [allen@roanoke.edu](mailto:allen@roanoke.edu) and you can get credit for a good-faith effort.

**For an online study:** Online studies are designated as such on SONA.Upon signup, you will be given access to survey software (the exact layout will depend on what the researcher is using). Take note of the deadline for completing the survey if you’re not going to take it right away. You can complete the survey any time before the indicated deadline, bearing in mind that sooner is usually better. Plan to set aside the indicated time for the survey; if the description says it takes 30 minutes, you want to find a distraction-free location when you’ll have 30 minutes free.

Credits: After the study, SONA will send you an email confirming the outcome: Credit, Excused No-Show, or Unexcused No-Show. It may also send credit updates and other informative messages. You can also check your credits at any time.

**Questions? Please contact Dr. Angela Allen at** [**allen@roanoke.edu**](mailto:allen@roanoke.edu)**.**

Option 2: Taking Reading Quizzes

You can satisfy all or part of the research requirement by passing multiple-choice quizzes on specific readings in psychology. These readings are on reserve in the library, in a book titled Forty Studies that Changed Psychology. Each passed quiz counts as one credit. You need to get 5 out of 7 questions correct in order to pass a quiz. There is no penalty for failing a quiz, but you cannot retake that quiz and will need to start over with a different reading.

Go to the reserve desk at the Fintel Library and ask to check out a copy of *Forty Studies that Changed Psycholog*y, by Hock. There are multiple copies of this book on reserve. Please note that these books are on restricted reserve; after checking it out you can have the book to read or copy for two hours in the library only. Removing the book from the library is a violation of academic integrity because other students are deprived of access to the course material.

[Only articles that are marked in the table of contents can be used to earn credits.](#Appendix) See the end of the handout for a list. We do not have quizzes for the other articles.

Be sure to note the article title because you will need it to obtain the appropriate quiz.

Quizzes are administered at specific times in Life Sciences (**not online)**. You sign up to take the quizzes through SONA as you would for a research study. Quizzes will be administered by Psychology department student assistants during specific times in the last two weeks of the semester, ending December 8. Go to SONA, go to “Review Available Studies” and look for “readings quizzes”; sign up and show up as indicated. Once you are at the quiz session, the assistant will ask you which articles’ quizzes you want. There is one quiz for each article and you will be given a Scantron to mark your answers.

You can take two quizzes during a quiz session if you like. Check with the student assistant giving the quizzes if you want to take more. Because of some SONA hard-coding, it’s extra work for them to give more than two, and they may not have time to do it.

For each quiz you pass, you will receive 1 credit. If you do not pass the quiz there is no penalty, but you cannot retake that quiz.

Frequently asked questions:

I never got an email from SONA with a temporary password. Why?

Check your junk mail folder. Email from SONA often ends up there. Then add the email address from SONA to your preferred senders list. No email from SONA in the junk mail folder either? Email Dr. Allen at [allen@roanoke.edu](mailto:allen@roanoke.edu) to fix it.

Can I get some credits from research and the rest from the readings quizzes?

Yes, you can “mix and match” research credits and quiz credits.

Can I double-count credits if two professors offer credit for research participation?

If you are taking both psyc 101 and inq 260 Psyc **in the same semester**, you can double-count your credits. If you’re in Psyc 101 or INQ 260 PY and another Psyc class that is letting you participate in studies for extra credit, check with that professor to see if you can double-count credits. Email Dr. Allen ([allen@roanoke.edu](mailto:allen@roanoke.edu)) so that the instructor reports can be set up to reflect this.

I took a survey in a course in another department. Can that count?

Only research studies or quiz sessions listed on SONA can be used for class credit, unless your professor tells you otherwise.

I completed a study but I don’t have credit yet!

If you completed the study more than 48 hours ago, email the person who was running the study and explain the situation. They may not have gotten around to crediting you yet. Email the researcher and work it out with them.

When are studies available?

Studies can appear at any time but most of them start up after the semester break. Studies are concluded before the last two weeks of classes.

I have a chance to participate in a study but I didn’t sign up for it beforehand. Can I still participate for credit?

Yes, you can! Be sure to tell the researcher that you didn’t sign up beforehand. He or she can sign you up retroactively and then credit you.

Will you email me when studies are available?

Yes, usually when the first study is added and then on an as-needed basis, usually on Fridays. I won’t email you after every single study is added (no one wants that many emails from me) so you may want to check study availability on a regular basis on your own.

Do studies fill up?

It is common for a given timeslot to fill up, but usually you can get into another one.

Will I only see timeslots for available studies?

Yes, but bear in mind that you may not meet study requirements (i.e., you may be 21 and the study is open only to people 20 and younger).

What is the deadline for obtaining credits?

You can sign up for studies as long as they are offered. The deadline is November 17, but studies may not necessarily be offered that late.

You can sign up for readings quizzes through December 8. Check to see when quiz sessions are available.

I am on a team/ have a job/ have obligations and can’t sign up for a study. What do I do?

You use the [readings option.](#_Option_2:_THE)

My home library has a copy of Forty Studies That Changed Psychology by Roger Hock. Why can’t I get the readings from it?

You can! Look under Appendix I for a list of titles for which we have quizzes.

Can I get extra credit by signing up for extra studies or doing extra readings quizzes?

If your instructor is willing to give you extra credit, he or she will announce it. Some instructors do, others do not. In the absence of such an announcement, assume that there is no extra credit.

Can I take more than one quiz at a time?

Yes, you may take two quizzes at a time. If you need to take more, talk to the student assistant administering the quizzes.

Who do I contact if I’m having trouble signing up?

Contact Dr. Angela Allen, Research Requirement Coordinator at [allen@roanoke.edu](mailto:allen@roanoke.edu) or come by my office at 531A.

Do not contact Information Technology unless it’s a computer error. They will just send you to me.

Appendix I: These are the readings from Forty Studies That Changed Psychology for which we have quizzes. We provide this list in the event that you want to access the readings from your home library or other source.

One Brain or Two?

To Sleep, No Doubt to Dream

To Help or Not to Help

First Born, Born Smarter?

A Chemical Calm

Crowding into the Behavioral Sink

Discovering Love

More Experience = Bigger Brain?

Not Practicing What You Preach

Watch Out for the Visual Cliff

Who’s Crazy Here, Anyway?

Appendix II: Map of the fifth floor of Life Sciences

