



Psychology Department

PSYC 480 AR: Directed Research Procedures and Guidelines

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The research in psychology course offered by the Psychology Department is an opportunity for psychology majors to gain valuable research experience in an approved psychological setting or agency. The purpose of this research is to give students the opportunity to integrate classroom knowledge with real world experiences. Students will be exposed to an agency or individual who is currently working in the field of psychology. This front-line exposure will hopefully help the student to clarify their personal and professional goals.

REQUIREMENTS

The research experience is limited to junior or senior psychology majors. Since the department and the University are directly affected by an intern's performance, only those students who have demonstrated a necessary degree of responsibility and proficiency in their courses will be recommended for the program. The criteria for approval are thus based on the student's interest, academic performance, career plans, preparation, and availability of research projects.

1. Complete and submit the attached Application for Research Opportunities. You will be contacted [as opportunities are available.]
2. Upon approval to participate in a research opportunity, pick up an Arranged Course Form (Registrar's or psychology office). Fill it out and obtain the required signatures. Please note the following information:

As you fill out the 'course outline section' of the arranged course permission form, be sure to state it something like this: "*I will be working approximately _____ hours per week for _____, helping with various areas of research. Duties will include _____ and _____. I am contracting for a(n) A or B.*" (If an A, add: "*A 2 page paper will be completed and turned in at the end of the semester.*")

3. Arrange with the professor/researcher the days, hours you will be available, and the requirements of your agreement.
4. Complete all hours registered for: For every 1 unit registered for, you are required to complete 3 hrs. of work per week for 15 weeks. Hence, if you register for 2 units, you must put in 6 hours per week for 15 weeks, i.e., 90 hours. Note: You may work all 90 hours in one week if you'd like and fulfill the requirements. 3 units would require 135 hours of research assistance. **Please keep a log of hours worked.**

The grade you receive is contingent on meeting the following requirements:

A — A minimum of three hours per week (total 45 hours) for each unit of credit working with/for the researcher and a written report (2 pages) detailing your research experience, (i.e. what you learned, how it helped you). Paper *and* log of hours worked is due Monday of finals week.

B — A minimum of three hours per week (total 45 hours) for each unit of credit working with/for the researcher, *plus* a log of hours worked to be turned in Monday of finals week.