



University of
Arizona
Spring 2026

Research Engagement Experience

*Interested in
psychological
research?*

*Consider joining a
lab as a research
assistant!*

*Talk to your
instructor for details.*

The Basics

All PSY 101 and PSY 150A1 students are required to complete the Research Engagement Experience as part of their coursework. This requirement is designed to give you exposure to the world of psychological research.



The Research Engagement Experience is worth 10% of your final grade in PSY 101/150A1. This is an all-or-nothing situation. If you complete this requirement, you will receive the full 10% toward your final grade. If you do not complete this requirement, you will receive 0% on this assignment. There is no partial credit.

Choose ONE of the following:

Primary Option:

*Participate in psychological
studies*

Alternative Option:

*Write a paper about a
psychological research article*

Regardless of which option you choose, you must complete the Research Engagement Experience by the last day of class.

Just about everything that you learn in this class is based on psychological research.

By participating in studies, not only are you completing the requirement, but you are also contributing to the field of psychology!

Primary Option: Participate in psychological studies

What this primary option entails:

- You are encouraged to choose this option. Participating in studies is interesting, educational, engaging, and beneficial to the field of psychology.
- If you choose this option, you will complete the Research Engagement Experience by participating in several studies conducted by the UA Psychology department.
- You are required to earn twelve (12) research credits over the course of the semester to complete this requirement.
 - Studies typically offer 1 research credit per 30 minutes. Therefore, a half-hour study is worth 1 credit, an hour-long study is worth 2 credits, etc.
 - You can earn 2 research credits by completing the Mass Survey (administered in class at the beginning of the semester).
 - There are online studies and in-person studies that have been vetted by the Psychology Department research committee.
- You may earn an additional 4 credits beyond the required 12 (total of 16 credits). These 4 credits will be counted as extra credit, in a manner as described by your instructor.

How to do this primary option:

- Your first step is to create an account on the research participation website.
 - Go to the website: <https://arizona-psych.sona-systems.com>
 - Click the red “Request Account” button and fill in your information.
- Once your account is set up, you are ready to sign up for studies. Available studies will be listed, along with available time slots.
 - You can always check your current research credit total by logging in to your account. The website is the official record of participation. These records are not kept by the main office in the Psychology department.
 - If you completed the Mass Survey, you may receive emails or phone calls from labs who are looking for participants. Participating in these studies will count towards this requirement. However, this contact should be for scheduling purposes only. Researchers should not be asking personal questions or conducting surveys by phone or email.
- If you complete this requirement by the last day of class, the 10% of your grade will be added to your grade book in D2L by your instructor.

Missing/canceled studies:

- **DO NOT MISS STUDIES THAT YOU SIGN UP FOR!** Labs devote considerable time, money, effort, and resources into preparing studies. These resources are wasted if participants do not show up.
- If you have more than 2 unexcused no-shows, the system will lock your account. Once locked, you will not be able to fulfill this requirement by participating in studies, and you will need to instead pursue option #2.
- To avoid unexcused no-shows, you can use the research website to cancel participation up to 24 hours before the scheduled study time. You can also cancel by contacting the researcher by phone or email, if you do so at least 1 hour before the scheduled study time. As a last resort, you can call the Psychology department front office (520-621-7447) to cancel, but please only do so if you are unable to reach the researcher.
- If something happens which causes you to miss a study, but you are unable to contact the researcher before the scheduled time, you have 48 hours to email a legitimate excuse to the experimenter to avoid a no-show on your account.
- If you show up to a scheduled study on time and the researcher needs to cancel, you are entitled to 1 research credit for showing up. The researcher in charge of that study will add that credit to your account.

There will be lots of students looking for studies to participate in this semester.

We recommend starting this requirement early, so that you have no problems with finding enough studies to be in.

Primary Option: Participate in psychological studies, continued

Some important details about this primary option:

- DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! We cannot guarantee that there will be enough studies available at the end of the semester, should you choose to fulfill this requirement at the last minute. It is strongly recommended that you take care of this requirement early in the semester.
- Experiment sessions get posted frequently. If you log in and there are no time slots posted that work for your schedule, check back later to see if any new time slots have been added.
- Before you participate in a study, you will sign an informed consent form that gives you some information about what you will do. Once the study is complete, you will be given a debriefing, in which the study will be explained to you, and you can ask any questions. Given that many of your classmates may be in these same studies, please refrain from discussing the details of studies with them.
- Some studies require more than one session. When this is specified, you are required to complete all the sessions to receive credit.
- Some studies have restrictions on who can participate (e.g., women only, left-handers, etc.). Read the study information on the website to ensure that you meet the qualifications for participating in that study.
- If you participated in a study but did not receive credit on the research website, or if you have any other questions about a specific study, please contact the researcher who oversees that study.
- If you have questions or issues regarding your participation in studies, please see the FAQ that is posted on the research participation website:
 - https://arizona-psych.sona-systems.com/faq_view.aspx
- If you have questions or issues regarding your account on the research participation website, please email the site administrator at UApsyexperiment@email.arizona.edu.

*The Research Engagement Experience is worth
10% of your final grade!*

*Make sure to complete this by the last day of class,
or else your grade will drop by a letter grade!*

When psychologists conduct research, they publish their findings in journals.

These articles are how psychologists contribute new knowledge to the field, and how they stay aware of the work that their colleagues are doing.

Alternative Option: Write a paper about a psychological research article

IMPORTANT: You may only pursue this alternative paper option if you follow the schedule below. You may NOT decide to do this option at the last minute, as your instructor will not accept the paper.

What this alternative paper option entails:

- If you choose the alternative paper option, you will complete the Research Engagement Experience by reading a psychological research article and writing a paper about that article. This paper should be 3-5 pages long.

How to do this alternative paper option:

- If you are going to choose the alternative option, you must let your instructor know by the first exam in your class. Please consult your class syllabus for the exact date.
- Follow this link for a guide to writing the paper:
 - <http://libguides.library.arizona.edu/psy150a1>
- You must submit the article that you plan to summarize to your instructor for approval. This should be done prior to the third exam in your class. Please consult your class syllabus for the exact date.
- Email your paper, along with a copy of the article that you read, to your instructor.
- If you satisfactorily complete this requirement by the last day of class, the 10% of your grade will be added to your grade book in D2L by your instructor.

Some important details about the alternative paper option:

- Be mindful of the deadlines associated with this option:
 - *by Midterm Exam #1*: inform your instructor that you have chosen this option
 - *by Midterm Exam #3*: get instructor approval for the article you've chosen
 - *by the last day of class*: submit paper and article to instructor by email
 - **If you do not follow this schedule, your alternative paper will NOT be accepted by your instructor. If you are writing the alternative paper, be sure to meet these deadlines! Contact your instructor with any questions.**
- The library guide (linked above) also has contact information for our librarian. If you have any questions about anything in that guide, use your librarian as a helpful resource.
- When submitting the paper to your instructor, be sure to also include a copy of the article that you chose.