

Psychology Research Participation Requirement

PSYC 2 • PSYC 4 • PSYC 8

Overview

Students enrolled in PSYC 2, PSYC 4, or PSYC 8 must complete a Research Participation Requirement by participating in research studies conducted by Psychology Department faculty and students. All participation is managed through the Psychology Research Website (SONA). Participation in any specific study is voluntary.

How to Complete the Requirement

1. Log in to the Psychology Research Website (SONA).
2. Complete the Pre-Screen questionnaire and select the correct course(s) title.
3. Sign up for available studies.
4. Attend scheduled sessions (online or in person).
5. Monitor credits under 'My Schedule/Credits.'

You are responsible for completing the required number of hours for each course. Credits can be reassigned to more than one course.

Required Hours & Grades

- Complete required hours for EACH enrolled course.
- Allocate earned credits correctly if enrolled in multiple classes.
- Instructors only see credits assigned to their course.

Failure to complete required hours results in an 'Incomplete (I).' You have one year to finish before it converts to an 'F.' Do not re-enroll in the course, complete remaining hours or the Alternative Writing Assignment instead (before the deadline for submission).

After credit completion, email psychology@csus.edu to request a grade change (there is no automatic notification system).

PSYC 2 & 8: 3 credits/hours required. PSYC 4: 2 credits/hours required.

Alternative Writing Assignment

Students who prefer not to participate in research may complete the Alternative Writing Assignment. Instructions are available on the Human Subjects Research Participation website. Assignments are reviewed at semester's end and approval is not guaranteed.

Participant ID & Privacy

- Each student receives a unique 5-digit Participant ID.
- Researchers see only your ID—not your name.
- Bring your ID to every session to receive credit.

Types of Studies

Online studies typically involve surveys or computer-based tasks. In-person studies may include laboratory or behavioral tasks administered by researchers.

In-person studies receive DOUBLE CREDIT to recognize additional time and effort.

Participant Rights

- Professional and respectful treatment
- Informed consent before participation
- Right to decline questions or withdraw at any time
- Debriefing explaining study purpose
- Credit posted within 1–2 days

Attendance & No-Show Policy

Study sign-ups may be canceled in SONA until 6:00 PM the evening before the session. After that, contact the researcher directly.

Failure to cancel a study sign-up and attend results in an 'unexcused no-show.' Two unexcused no-shows will lead to loss of SONA access. You will be required to complete the alternative writing assignment or make-up the research credits in the following semester.

If you arrive on time and the researcher is absent, contact the researcher (and SONA administrator if necessary) to receive credit.

Planning Ahead

- More studies are available early and mid-semester.
- Availability peaks around Week 9-11 and decreases significantly after Week 14.
- All studies end on the last day of instruction before Finals Week.
- Do not wait until the final week to complete hours as study sign-ups are limited.

Professional Expectations

Arrive on time, follow instructions carefully, and participate respectfully. Your engagement contributes to meaningful psychological research.