Psychology Department
University of Massachusetts Lowell
47.101 General Psychology

THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

- Register for a Sona Systems account immediately
- You will know when studies are available only if you register for an account
- You will be notified by email when timeslots are available
- Register for an account at http://umasslowell.sona-systems.com
- Click request an account the first time
- Use your UMass Lowell email account name, which appears before the '@', as your Sona Systems login name during the registration.
- Sona-Systems will automatically append @student.uml.edu to your email account name to send you email
- Enter your section information correctly or you may not receive credit
- A password will be sent to your UMass Lowell student.uml.edu email address
- Use the password that you receive via email to sign up for studies on Sona-Systems
- Researchers are expected to post credit for your participation within one week of the date that you participate
- An alternative to participation is available
- Participation helps you to understand how psychologists study behaviors
- Participation counts for 10% of your course grade
- Please satisfy your participation requirement as soon as possible
- Three hours of participation are required

Every General Psychology student is required to complete a research experience requirement. Participation counts for 10% of the course grade. For satisfactorily completing 3 hours of research experience, you earn a grade of 100 on this requirement; for 2 hours of research experience, you earn a grade of 60; for 1 hour, a grade of 30; and for zero hours, your grade is zero. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in research studies.

The research experience requirement is intended to familiarize you with the ways that psychologists study behaviors. As you will learn in General Psychology, research is very important to psychologists. Many of the interesting psychological phenomena that you will study this semester have been discovered in research involving students like you.

You may fulfill the research experiences requirement by participating in approved studies, conducted on campus by faculty members or advanced psychology students who work under faculty supervision. Approved studies will appear only on Sona Systems. You may participate in one 3-hour study, one 2-hour study and one 1-hour study, or three 1-hour studies. By the end of the semester, every General Psychology student will have had the opportunity to experience 3 hours of research participation. Please complete your requirement as soon as possible. If you sign up for a study and do not participate, a 1 hour penalty will be assessed. You may cancel participation by logging in to Sona Systems up to 2 hours before the time scheduled for your participation.

The faculty and students who will be putting their time and effort into this semester’s research thank you for participating with seriousness of mind and purpose.

*Research participants remain anonymous in all of the research studies published by faculty and students. Before any study involving General Psychology students can be conducted, it must pass through an ethical review process.

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PROCEDURE FOR PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH STUDIES

For anyone who is not yet 18, or for anyone who prefers not to participate in research, three alternative assignments will be available. For each of the alternative research assignments, you must (1) attend a live research talk in the Psychology Department's Sophomore Colloquium series or watch a 1-hour videotape of a psychology research talk at a past colloquium and (2) provide written answers to questions about the talk. Copies of the questions for each assignment are available from Dr. Coppens in Mahoney Hall 110. Typed or clearly written answers must be returned to Dr. Coppens no later than 7 days before the last date of scheduled classes (December 7, 2006).

1. You must use your UML email account to register for an account on Sona-Systems. If you know your UML username and password, skip to #2. If you have not accessed your UML email account, please do so promptly. Information regarding email accounts is available at: http://intranet.uml.edu/it/email/fingerprint_student/index.html

2. To schedule your research participation, access http://uml.sona-systems.com. If you logged in to http://uml.sona-systems.com previously and obtained an account skip to #3.
   a) First time visitors to http://uml.sona-systems.com, click Request an account.
   b) Complete the online form with the information requested:
      1) User ID: type your UML email name, e.g. Firstname_Lastname (Jillian_Snow)
      2) Course: select the correct section number of your General Psychology class
   c) To finish, click on Request Account.
   d) A password will be sent to your @student.uml.edu email address. Copy and save the information in the email and use it to log in to http://uml.sona-systems.com. You can change your Sona-Systems password.

3. Click on Browse a list of experiments and sign up for your choices. For any of the experiments listed, you can click first on Timeslots available, then click on View time slots for this experiment and across from a time that fits into your schedule, click on Sign up. A screen confirming your success will appear—Copy the information on this screen.

   To go back to a previous page, DO NOT click the browser BACK button; instead, use the four tabs on the bar near the top of the web pages. To signup for another experiment, click on the Experiments tab. To cancel your participation in an experiment (at least 2 hours in advance) or to confirm your credits, click on the My schedule/credits tab. To change your password, click on the My profile tab. In order to exit the website, click on the Logout tab.

4. Come to the experiment on the scheduled date and be on time. SIGN IN when you arrive at the study so that the experimenter can give you credit for attending. Any time you fail to attend a scheduled experiment, which you did not cancel at least 2 hours in advance, 1 research credit will be subtracted from your total credits for the semester. When you register to participate in research, attend the study for which you registered. You will not earn credit for attending another study held at the same time and will incur a 1 credit penalty for missing the study for which you registered. The investigator is relying on your participation and students who would have signed up in your stead are relying on your good faith as well.

5. Researchers are expected to complete all studies and post credits for participation on or before December 7, 2006.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT OR THESE PROCEDURES, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY INSTRUCTOR, DR. COPPENS (x3950) or DR. LANDRIGAN (x3950) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, MAHONEY HALL.