Student Participation in Psychological Research

NOTE: The last day to participate or turn in a written report is: Monday, 26 Nov.

All students in Psychology 1410 are required to earn 5% of their grade through participation in psychological research or an equivalent written assignment. This is a class assignment, not “extra credit,” and failing to meet this assignment will lead to a penalty in your grade of up to 5%. Two options are available to you, research participation or a written report. Important: Students who are less than 18 years of age must do a written report.

You will need to be able to access your MTSU email account to use the research pool. If you are having trouble accessing your email account, call the OIT Help Desk at 898-5345. Please be courteous when participating in research. Silence all cell phones prior to the beginning of the research, do not take calls during the research session, and try not to disturb other students during a research session.

Credits. You must earn 4 credits to receive your full 5%. Each half hour of research participation is worth 1 credit. Research projects vary in duration and you will be given credit based on the project’s length. NOTE: You may only receive two credits from online studies (the other two credits must be obtained from participation in on-ground studies).


How to participate. Go to the session at the designated time and place. You will need a blue Experiment Record Card as a receipt of attendance. You may obtain a blue Experiment Record Card from the researcher or from your instructor. Be sure to take good care of your blue Experiment Record Card as your instructor may ask you to turn in this card. The researcher will conduct the research, and place a sticker on and sign your blue Experiment Record Card in ink (insist that the credits and signature be in ink). If you participate in on-line research through the MTSU Study Sign-up System, simply write “on-line” in the “Experimenter’s Signature” area of the blue Experiment Record Card. After 7 days, you may check “My Credits” on the MTSU Study Sign-Up System to verify your credits.

Canceling Your Participation. If you cannot keep an appointment, you must cancel your participation by going to the MTSU Study Sign-Up System and removing yourself from the research. You may cancel up to two hours before the research is scheduled to begin.

No Show Policy. If you miss two appointments without canceling (have two no shows), you will be removed from the MTSU Study Sign-Up System and will have to do a written report. Canceled appointments will not count as a no show. If you have an appropriate excuse (e.g., an emergency prevented both your attendance and canceling the appointment), you may appeal a no show to the research pool director. If you are removed, you will still be able to log in, but you will not see any studies.

Researcher no-shows. If a researcher cannot attend, you still get credit for showing up for the research. If you show up and the researcher is not there, log into the MTSU Study Sign-Up System and double check that you were in the right place at the right time. If so, contact the research pool director with the details of the research. Note: If you are more than 10 minutes late for a research study, you will be recorded as having missed your appointment.

Did the Instructor get notified of my participation? Log into the MTSU Study Sign-Up System and look at your credit report. Researchers are required to enter credits within seven (7) days of your participation. If you did not receive the correct number of credits, email the research pool director with the study number and the date and time of your participation.

Problem? Contact Dr. Stuart Bernstein, stuart.bernstein@mtsu.edu, JH 224, 615/898-5943.
Written Report for Research Credit

NOTE: The last day to participate or turn in a written report is: Monday, 26 Nov.

Who must do a written report. If you choose not to participate in research or are less than 18 years of age, you may fulfill your research credit requirement by completing a written report.

How to do a written report. A list of research articles is on reserve on the library’s e-reserve system. You must choose one article from this list. Go to the Psychology Department’s research page for specific instructions about accessing the library’s e-reserve system: http://capone.mtsu.edu/wlangsto/ResearchPoolPage.html

To obtain full credit you must first read one of the articles and answer a set of questions on the written report form. The written report form may be downloaded from the department’s research pool page: http://capone.mtsu.edu/wlangsto/ResearchPoolPage.html

Answers must be typed, clearly written, using complete grammatical sentences (see below for grading guidelines). This exercise is designed to take approximately 2 hours (the same amount of time as research participation).

How to turn in the report. Give the completed form to your instructor by Monday, 26 Nov. (even if your class does not meet on Mondays). Your instructor will forward the form to the graduate assistant in charge of grading and assigning research credits. Your credits will then be listed with those of students participating in research on the MTSU Study Sign-Up System.

Did the Instructor get notified of my participation? Your instructor will be given a list of student credits. You can check your record (on the Sona system) to be sure you received proper credit. There is typically a one to two week delay between when you turn in a report and when your credit will be reported to your instructor.

Problem? Contact Dr. Stuart Bernstein, stuart.bernstein@mtsu.edu, JH 224, 615/898-5943.

Guidelines Used to Assign Full or Partial Credit for Written Assignments

Full Credit (4 points): The report has been completed thoroughly, with responses demonstrating that the student carefully read the article and made an attempt to answer the questions correctly. Questions are answered using complete sentences.

Partial Credit (3 points): Some answers were completed thoroughly, while others were incomplete.

Partial Credit (2 points): Answers provide evidence that the student rushed through the assignment or did not completely read the article (e.g., minimal and incomplete sentences resulting in incomplete answers).

Partial Credit (1 point): Same as partial credit above, but some questions are left unanswered by the student.

No Credit (0 points): ANY evidence of plagiarism (copying more than three words in a row from the original article) will result in a zero for the entire report. Copying answers from another student also is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero on both students’ reports.