



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
(530) 752-1880
FAX: (530) 752-2087

ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8686

Dear Student:

This letter explains the research participation requirements in your PSC 1, PSC 41 or PSC 1Y class. If you are not enrolled in PSC 1, PSC 41 or PSC 1Y, then you are not required to participate in research. However, your instructor may offer you extra credit for participating in research studies.

CONTACT:

Subject Pool Coordinator at spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu. Always include the following information in your emails:

(1) Student ID, **(2)** Course #, **(3)** Course Section #, **(4)** and Course Instructor

OVERVIEW:

- (1) Credit Requirement:** PSC 1, PSC 1Y, and PSC 41 students must complete 6 credits of research by the deadline.
- (2) SONA Account:** To participate in research, you will be assigned a SONA account. You will NOT be able to access your SONA account until the first day of classes. You will login [here](#). For instructions on using the SONA website click [here](#).
- (3) Paper Option:** If you cannot participate in research studies, you can write research papers instead. Click [here](#) for more info. You will not submit your papers to the Canvas website of your PSC class. You will submit them to a special Canvas page called *Papers for Research Credit*. Contact the Subject Pool Coordinator to be added to this page.
- (4) Deadline:** You must participate in research or submit your papers by **Thursday, June 6th at 5pm**.

MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT USING SONA:

- **PRESCREEN SURVEY:** When you first log into SONA, you will be prompted to answer several questions. If you decline to answer the age question, no studies will be available to you. The more questions you answer in the prescreen, the more studies you will be eligible for.
- **FAQ:** There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) website that you can visit to resolve your SONA issues [here](#).
- **CANVAS NOT LINKED TO SONA:** SONA is not automatically linked to your Canvas Account. If you add or drop a class in Canvas, you have to manually add or drop the class in SONA. Follow the [instructions here](#) to learn how.
- **CONTACT ME:** Don't bother your instructors with SONA questions, and don't contact the advising office or your instructors about how to resolve the incomplete. You can contact the Subject Pool Coordinator directly.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:***How do I sign up to participate in research on SONA?***

You sign up for research studies at <https://ucdavis.sona-systems.com>. Your user ID is the last 6 or 7 digits of your student ID. If you have never logged into the SONA System before, click on the "Forgot Password?" button. Type in your user ID and the system will send a message to your UC Davis email account with instructions on how to set your SONA password.

What exactly is required for students in PSC 1, PSC 41, or PSC 1Y?

You need to earn 6 research participation credits by participating in at least 6 hours of research (or by writing research papers). Some studies can be completed online while other studies require you to visit a research lab on campus. Only **5 out of 6 research credits** can come from online studies (for example, if you are required to complete 6 Sona credits, this means you can do 5 credits through online studies, and the remaining 1 must be obtained through in-person studies or writing a research papers). You can earn your 6 credits by participating in studies, writing papers, or any combination of

the two. In courses other than PSC 1, PSC 41, or PSC 1Y, your instructor will indicate whether there is a limit on online studies.

Research Participation Deadlines:

For **Spring Quarter 2024**, you may participate in research starting on **Monday, April 1st** until **Thursday, June 6th at 5pm**. Completing the requirement in advance of this date is highly recommended—in the final week there are many students who wait until the last minute, and there are often not enough studies to accommodate them all.

What is the reason for the research participation requirement?

Just as biology students often do dissections and chemistry students often conduct laboratory experiments, psychology students learn about research partly by participating in it. When you participate in studies, you will see how psychologists and communication researchers collect data and what it feels like to be the ‘subject’ of study. You will be able to talk with researchers about what they’re doing and why.

Besides being educational, your participation is very important to UC Davis researchers who depend on human participants to advance their research programs. UCD's Psychology Department has an excellent reputation for research, and this reputation could not be sustained without the help of research participants like you.

What if I am Retaking a Course because I got an Incomplete?

If you are retaking a course and already completed some or all of your credits in a previous quarter, you do not have to do them again. However, you **MUST** email the Subject Pool Coordinator (spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu) and say you would like to reuse your old credits. This process will NOT happen automatically.

What if I am under 18 years old?

If you are under 18 years of age, then you cannot fulfill your requirement by participating in studies. Instead you must write brief research papers as described above. If you turn 18 during the term, then you may participate in studies after your birthday— just email the Subject Pool Coordinator to reset your age.

What if I do not want to or cannot participate in research?

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may write research papers instead. Info is below:

(1) Each paper should be 700-1000 words. **(2)** Each paper is worth 2 research credits. **(3)** Each paper must review a research article from [this list](#). It should include a summary of the article and present your reactions to it as per [this template](#). **(4)** Papers are due by **5pm on Thursday, June 6th**. **(5)** You will upload your papers to the *Papers for Research Credit* Canvas course -- if you are not already added to this course, email the subject pool coordinator at spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu. More information about the Research Paper option can be found [here](#).

What happens if I do not finish my research requirement this quarter?

If you have not earned the 6 required credits by the deadline, you will receive an Incomplete for the course. You will have until the end of the next registered academic quarter (excluding summer sessions) to complete your research. Once you complete your research, your Incomplete will be reverted to the letter grade you originally earned in the course.

IMPORTANT: If you are resolving an Incomplete, once you have completed the required research credits, you must email the Subject Pool Coordinator with the course information to process the paperwork.

If you do NOT complete the research requirement by the end of the next quarter or do NOT email the Subject Pool Coordinator in time, your Incomplete will be replaced by a letter grade but the grade will be reduced by one level (e.g., A- becomes B+, B+ becomes a B, and so on). Students may petition to receive extra time to complete the Incomplete. Click [here](#) for details about how to clear the incomplete.

Please note: This policy applies to students who receive an Incomplete for courses taken in Fall Quarter 2023 and onward. The policy is slightly different if you received your Incomplete for courses prior to Fall Quarter 2023 (see the Research Participant Letter you received when you took the class or contact the Subject Pool Coordinator).

Winkie Ma
Subject Pool Coordinator
spcoordinator@ucdavis.edu