

# Psy 105 Experimental Participation Requirement

## Information for Researchers

The Psychology Department has an experimental participation requirement for students enrolled in General Psychology. In order to ensure the educational value of participation in your research, you must submit a proposal that details your adherence to the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association and the debriefing information that you will provide for all participants. Specific questions to be addressed in your proposal and general policies that you must follow when recruiting participants from General Psychology classes appear below.

### Institutional Review Board – Questions to Address

1. Describe the theoretical background, general procedures to be used, and hypotheses of your experiment.
2. Describe the relevant characteristics of the subject population, such as their anticipated number, age range, sex, ethnic background, and health status. Identify any special criteria for inclusion in your experiment.
3. Identify the nature of the data that you will collect, indicating whether it will be obtained using questionnaire measures, a computer program, audiotapes or videotapes, etc.
4. Describe plans for the recruitment of participants and the consent procedures to be followed. Note the nature of the information to be provided to prospective participants and the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained. *Attach a copy of the consent form that you will use.*
5. Describe any potential risks—physical, psychological, social, legal, or other—and assess their likelihood and seriousness.
6. Describe the procedures for protecting against or minimizing any risks, including breaches of confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness. Describe how you will carry out your debriefing (e.g., after the experimental session or in a mailing to all participants once all experimental data have been collected). If you choose to mail a statement, include preliminary results and your name and phone number. *Attach a copy of the information—including an explanation of your design, procedure, and hypotheses—that you will provide to participants.*
7. Discuss why you believe the risks to participants are reasonable in relation to the anticipated benefits of this research, including the educational benefits for participants and the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.

**NEW: In your proposal, indicate how much time will be required for participation so that an amount of credit can be determined (e.g., ½hour of credit for 1-30 min, 1 hour of credit for 31-60 min, ...).**

**Sample Documents and Information for Students.** A sample IRB form—including a consent form and debriefing statement—and the information sheet distributed to General Psychology students are available on the Psychology web page at: [www.etown.edu/psychology/](http://www.etown.edu/psychology/)

**Advertising Your Experiment.** Once approved, information on your experiment should be placed in its own clearly labeled folder just outside of the General Psychology classroom (Esbenshade 263). Include a written description of your experiment along with either a signup sheet of available times or details on how you may be contacted to sign up. You should periodically check your folder to see whether anyone has signed up, but *please leave the signup sheet in the folder so that participants may double-check the date, time, and location as needed.* Note that you may also request professors' permission to announce your experiment and/or pass around a signup sheet. **When you advertise your experiment, indicate how much credit it is worth but do not specify how much time is required to participate. Experiments that require 1-30 min are worth ½hour of credit, experiments that require 31-60 min are worth 1 hour of credit, and so forth.**

**Awarding Credit.** You must maintain lists of participants in each section of General Psychology. As soon as a participant arrives at your experiment, make sure that his or her name is added to the appropriate list. You must also maintain a list of individuals who fail to show up for a scheduled time without phoning in advance. Those students will be responsible for participating in one additional experiment for each experiment that they miss. Likewise, if you fail to show up for a scheduled time without phoning the participant(s) in advance, you must award credit for the experiment. *Please turn in lists of participants and no-shows on a regular basis so that professors may update their records and students may check the status of their experimental participation requirement.* **When signing a participant's card, sign one line for each ½hour of credit he or she should receive.**

**Questions.** If you would like more information or clarification, ask your research supervisor or the coordinator of experimental participation in psychology, Dr. John Ruscio ([rusciojp@etown.edu](mailto:rusciojp@etown.edu) or x1331).