

PSYC 290x: Supervised Research in Psychology

Description of PSYC 290x Supervised Research:

Psyc 290x allows students to become involved in faculty-led research early in their studies. It is open to students in any major or year. The prerequisite is PSYC 100. The purpose is to develop specific research skills, knowledge in the area under investigation, and a clearer sense of long-term interests in research, academic programs, and career options. Students may enroll in 2 or 4 credits in one semester, continuing over multiple semesters, up to a maximum of 8 credits. Successive placements may be with the same or a different faculty advisor. Credits earned for 290x do not count toward the Psychology major or minor but do count toward graduation requirements.

To register for PSYC 290x, students must do the following:

1. Identify a faculty advisor in psychology and discuss a plan for the supervised research experience;
2. Submit this proposal form with the faculty advisor's signature (see page 2 of this document)

Requirements for PSYC 290x:

-Two to three hours of involvement per week is required for each credit enrolled. The exact number of required hours per week will be determined by the faculty advisor and agreed upon by the student. A substantial part of the student's weekly hours must be in the lab or other research setting, and involve regular interaction with his or her faculty advisor or other research staff. The 290x proposal must describe fully how the student will be involved and supervised in the lab.

-By the last day of the final exam week, submit acceptable responses to the end-of-term questionnaire and either (a) a reflective paper, or (b) an empirical or review paper. Pages 3-4 of this document contain the end-of-term submission instructions.

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PROPOSAL FORM

Student Name _____ Student ID # _____
Phone # _____ Year in School _____
Major _____ Email Address _____
Semester & year of 290x _____
Number of credits of 290x you are registering for this semester (2 or 4) _____

Name of faculty advisor _____

If you will also be supervised by a graduate student or member of research staff, print name(s):

Attach a summary (in less than 1.5 double-spaced pages) of the nature and goals of your supervised research experience, addressing the following: What is the topic under investigation? What will your regular responsibilities be while you are in the lab or research setting? Approximately how many hours do you plan on spending in the lab or research setting, each week? Who will train you and supervise you in the lab, day-to-day? What kind of work will you do independently, if any, that contributes to the research? What are you hoping to gain from this experience?

Research Agreement

I have read the requirements for PSYC-290x and have discussed them with my Faculty Advisor. I am aware that I must conduct the research project appropriately, under my advisor's direction, and must submit to my Faculty Advisor a written report by the end of the semester. The information entered on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

X _____
Student's Signature and date

I agree to sponsor this student's PSYC-290x course and to provide a beneficial learning experience. I will provide guidance to the student on the written end-of-term submission and provide a grade to the Department by the end of the semester.

X _____
Faculty Advisor's Signature and date

Requires Approval of Department Chair: X _____

Department Chair signature & date

Distribution: Copies go to Faculty Advisor, Academic Advisor, Department Chair

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End-of-term submission form

Students will submit this cover sheet, responding to A and B below, and either a reflective paper or a research paper as described in C below.

A. Indicate the nature of the work performed:

- Entering data into a computer (e.g., Excel, Google Docs, SPSS)
- Scoring written or online study materials (e.g., tallying answers to a personality test based on a key)
- Coding behavior (e.g., evaluating, assigning a rating to, timing, or counting how often behaviors occurred)
- Interacting with study participants in-person (e.g., obtaining consent, giving instructions, running the data collection sessions, debriefing)
- Managing study recruitment and awarding of credit for participation via usc.sona-systems.com or another means
- Contributing to the design of a study by suggesting variables, measures, control techniques, etc.
- Reading articles provided by your mentor related to the research
- Searching databases for journal articles related to the research
- Contributing to an application for ethics approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Other. Please describe:

B. Time involvement

- (1) For how many credits of 290x are you registered? (1) _____
- (2) How many hours per week, on average, did you work at a lab or research setting under the supervision of faculty or research staff? (2) _____
- (3) How many hours did you spend working off-site or independently on work related to your 290x placement? These activities might include reading, writing, literature searches, and managing aspects of a study online. (3) _____

If more hours were completed in (3) than (2) above, please explain briefly why the nature of the research involves more hours being completed remotely and/or independently, and how these hours constitute “supervised research.” Attach additional paper as needed.

C. In addition to A and B, students must submit either a reflective paper or a research paper.

A reflective paper should be about four pages long, double-spaced, and respond to the following, in this sequence:

1. A description of the student's understanding of the context of the research, including citations and an APA style list of references.
2. A description of how the student's activities contributed to the research.
3. A description of the research skills developed by the student.
4. An indication of what the student learned from the experience, and how this experience fits with the student's short- or long-term goals.

Alternatively, for students with a bit more background in research methods, a research paper may be submitted instead of a reflective paper. This paper should be a minimum of four pages for two credits and eight pages for four credits of 290x enrolled, and include an appropriate number of empirical sources. The paper can report data collected or analyzed during the semester as part of the 290x experience, or, be a literature review or theoretical paper related to the research being performed for 290x credit. Papers must be written in APA format.