

## **PSYC 490x: Directed Research in Psychology**

### Description of PSYC 490x Directed Research:

Psyc 490x allows students to conduct research under faculty direction. The prerequisites are PSYC 100, PSYC 274, and one additional psychology course. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is also required. Students may enroll in 2 - 4 credits in one semester, continuing over multiple semesters, up to a maximum of 8 credits. Note that credits earned through completion of Psyc 490x may not be applied toward the 400-level course requirement for the psychology major. However, Psyc 490x may be applied toward the required, additional psychology course, either upper or lower division, of at least 2.67 units (max 4 units).

To earn credit for PSYC 490x, students must do the following:

1. Identify a faculty advisor in psychology and discuss a plan for the directed research experience;
2. Submit this proposal form with your faculty advisor's signature (see page 2 of this document);
3. Submit, by the last day of final exam period, acceptable responses to the end-of-term questionnaire and a research paper. Page 3 of this document contain the end-of-term submission instructions.

Note that an average of 2-3 hours of involvement per week for each credit enrolled must be described in the proposal and in the end-of-term questionnaire.

### *How does Psyc 490x differ from Psyc 290x?*

They have different prerequisites, and Psyc 490x is generally appropriate for students in their junior or senior year although some sophomores may meet the requirements. Psyc 290x is intended for students with little to no experience in a research lab whereas Psyc 490x is intended for students who have some research experience. Generally, a student will contribute to their 490x faculty mentor's lab on a voluntary basis or while completing Psyc 290x before enrolling in 490x with that faculty member. Some students will design and conduct their own studies while enrolled in 490x. Others will work fairly independently on an ongoing research project in the lab, or prepare a significant literature review under the faculty member's direction.

PSYC 490x: Directed Research In Psychology  
PROPOSAL FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Year in School \_\_\_\_\_  
Major \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Semester & year of 490x \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of credits of 490x you are registering for this semester (2 - 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 directed research experience, addressing the following: What is the topic under investigation? Include representative citations from relevant studies, when possible. What will be the nature of your directed research project? Specify your planned involvement in any of the following research activities: Writing a literature review, designing a study, collecting data, analyzing data, and writing or presenting the results of a study. What are you hoping to gain from this experience?

**Research Agreement**

I have read the requirements for PSYC-490x 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 the required end-of-term submissions 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-490x 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

**PSYC 490x: Directed Research in Psychology**  
**End-of-term submission form**

Students will submit this cover sheet, responding to A and B below, and include an APA formatted research paper as described in C below. This completed form and the paper should be submitted in electronic and print form to the advisor by the last day of classes. This allows the advisor to provide feedback and ensure that the student submits the final version of the paper to the Department Chair no later than the last day of the final exam period.

**A. Indicate with checkmark(s) 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)
- Writing a literature review in APA format
- Writing other components of an APA paper (e.g., method, results, discussion)
- Attending meetings related to the research in your faculty mentor's lab (e.g., with other undergraduate or graduate students)
- Presenting your research at a poster or paper session on or off campus (e.g., Undergraduate Research Symposium or a psychology conference)
- Other. Please describe:

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**B. Time involvement**

Describe briefly how many hours, on average, you worked on your directed research project this semester. In addition, indicate, in a relative sense, on which of the activities that you checked above you spent the most time and which were more rarely performed.

C. In addition to A and B, students must submit an empirical or review paper in APA format, the body of which is at least three pages for each credit of 490x enrolled. The paper must include an appropriate number citations and references for its length, as deemed by the faculty advisor.