Policy

The Department’s Research Participation System (RPS) is an online system for managing research studies involving student participants. Faculty and student researchers benefit from the RPS by gaining access to a large pool of participants. Student participants acquire important experiential learning opportunities from the RPS and learn firsthand about research in psychology.

Policies and Procedures for the RPS

The RPS shall be managed by at least one faculty member (Faculty Coordinator) appointed by the Head, and one support staff member. The Faculty Coordinator shall review and handle all RPS applications. The Faculty Coordinator shall consult with the Chair of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board on ethics-related issues involving the RPS. The Faculty Coordinator shall consult with the Department Executive Committee on resource-related issues involving the RPS. The support staff member shall handle the management of the online RPS and shall generate credit reports for course instructors at the end of each session.

Studies may be posted on the RPS for research participation credit, or for payment and/or lottery, after receiving appropriate ethics approval and RPS approval.

For courses other than PSYC 200, 201, and 203: At instructors’ discretion, students in their courses can participate in ethics-approved studies in exchange for bonus credit toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course may be added to a student’s final grade.

Students in Fall/Winter sections of Psyc 200 and 201 (not including weekend university sections) and Psyc 203 are required to complete a Research-Participation/Article-Evaluation Course Component (4% of grade).

The RPS policy regarding participation (see below) shall be made accessible on the RPS to both researchers and students.

Each year in August, the Faculty Coordinator of the RPS shall provide a report on the RPS to the Head of the Department of Psychology. The final report will be submitted to the Chair of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board.
Policies and Procedures for Researchers using the RPS

To post a study on the RPS, researchers must first obtain the appropriate ethics approval. Once obtained, researchers must submit an RPS application (plus supporting documents) for review by the Faculty Coordinator. A study can be posted on the RPS only after the Faculty Coordinator has approved the RPS application. Only studies with valid, non-expired ethics approval can be posted on the RPS.

Researchers shall propose an alternate option as part of their RPS application for use by those students in courses other than Psyc 200, 201, and 203 who wish to receive bonus credit but do not wish to complete the actual study. The alternate option should involve activities that require approximately the same amount of time as the actual study (e.g., an article evaluation). Students selecting the alternate option will be credited by researchers the same way they would be if they completed the actual study.

RPS approval for research participation credit studies is contingent, in part, on researchers demonstrating that participants will receive an educational experience in exchange for receiving research participation credit.