PSYC 290x: Supervised Research in Psychology

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 major or minor requirements.

How to register for PSYC 290x
1. Identify a faculty advisor in the Department of Psychology and discuss a plan for the supervised research experience.

2. Complete this proposal form (see pages 2-3) with the faculty advisor, and submit it to the Psychology Department advising staff (SGM 501), subject to approval by the Department Chair, **by the end of the second week of the semester.**

Planning a PSYC 290x Experience with your Faculty Advisor
- Two to three hours of involvement per week is required for each credit enrolled.

- The 290x course provides experiential learning thus, students are expected to be in the faculty advisor's lab or another research setting for most of hours designated for this course. Limited work on the research from a remote location (e.g., via home computer, at the library) is allowed, so long as this is justified in the proposal.

- There should be regular interaction between the student and faculty advisor.

- The student will prepare an end-of-term reflective paper as instructed below, by the deadlines indicated below, allowing time for the faculty advisor to give feedback. The faculty advisor may assign other research-related deadlines that factor into the overall grading of the 290x experience.

PSYC 290x: Supervised Research In Psychology Proposal

This proposal must be completed in full and submitted to a psychology department advisor (SGM 501) for D-clearance. It is then subject to approval by the Psychology Department Chair.

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 research staff member, print name(s):

In less than 1.5 double-spaced pages, describe the nature and goals of your supervised research experience, addressing the following:

- What is the topic under investigation in this lab?

- Describe your anticipated role(s) while you are in the lab or at the research setting. Your involvement may include, but is not limited to, assisting with study development, subject recruitment, data collection, scoring of materials, data entry, library research and writing, technical support, attending lab meetings, and additional readings or discussions related to the research.

- For the anticipated roles you have described, indicate how much time you expect each to take in a typical week. This course does allow for flexibility in your research activities over the semester, but it is important to make clear in your proposal that you will be able to contribute two to three hours per week, per credit enrolled.

- If any of your responsibilities are to be performed remotely, please explain these and how you will be supervised.

- Overall, what are you hoping to gain from the PSYC 290x experience?

Research Agreement to be submitted with PSYC 290x Proposal

Please consult the current semester's academic calendar at https://academics.usc.edu/calendar/ to identify the date on which classes end.

Deadline to submit reflective paper to faculty advisor (two weeks before the last day of

classes):   _____ _____, 20 ____

Deadline to submit final reflective paper to Department Chair (last day of classes):

_____ _____, 20 ____

I have read the requirements for PSYC-290x and have discussed them with my Faculty Advisor. I am aware that in order to receive a grade, I must meet my scheduled responsibilities in the research lab and submit an acceptable reflective paper by the dates indicated above. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a grade penalty, possibly including a grade of unexcused withdrawal or F, depending on the circumstances.

x _____   Date: _____
Student's Signature

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

x_____   Date: _____
Faculty Advisor's Signature

This proposal must be submitted by the end of the second week of classes to a Psychology Undergraduate Advisor in SGM 501, 9am-5pm, who will check your eligibility to take PSYC 290x and seek approval of the Department Chair before granting D-clearance.

x_____
Department Chair signature & date

For advisor use only: _____ D-clearance granted

PSYC 290x: Supervised Research in Psychology
End-of-Term Submission

As indicated in the Research Agreement completed before enrolling in 290x, the deadline to submit the reflective paper to the faculty advisor is two weeks before the last day of classes. The faculty advisor should then provide feedback and opportunity for revision of the paper, which is due in final form to the Psychology Department Chair on the last day of classes. The faculty advisor should also provide a recommended grade to the Chair by this date. Submission instructions for the final paper are available from Psychology advising.

Students should submit a reflective paper of 4-6 double-spaced pages responding to the following:

1. Describe the large question or problem that guides the research to which you contributed this semester, including APA style citations and references. This should reflect a deeper understanding than in your proposal, based on readings and involvement in the lab.

2. Describe the design and hypotheses of the research to which you contributed (citations from the lab or related work are likely to be appropriate here). Be specific about how you contributed to the project(s). As in your proposal, make it clear how you contributed 2-3 hours per week, on average, per credit enrolled.

3. Summarize the current status of the projects to which you contributed. For example, is the data collection ongoing or completed? What are some key findings? Has the work been presented or is a manuscript in preparation? Are there any planned follow-up studies?

4. Describe how this experience fits with your short- or long-term goals, including future research endeavors or career aspirations.