

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, elective psychology course for majors or minors, either upper or lower division, of at least 2.67 units (max 4 units).

How does PSYC 490x differ from PSYC 290x?

PSYC 290x requires only PSYC 100 and 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, usually, juniors or seniors. In addition, 490x students should have experience reading journal articles and writing in APA style as a formal research paper is required. During the semester in which they are enrolled, 490x students may design and conduct a study or work fairly independently on an ongoing research project in the lab of their faculty advisors. Generally, a student will already have experience in that lab, either voluntarily or through PSYC 290x. While the Psychology Department encourages students to engage in data collection and analysis for PSYC 490x, a significant literature review may also be approved.

Instructions for submitting the PSYCH-290/490x application

Please read the instructions below carefully. **You are responsible for the contents of this instruction sheet.**

1. **Please do not apply if your science and/or cumulative GPA is below 3.0.**
2. PSYCH-290/490x applications are due in the online site (see #6 below) by 12:00 pm on the Friday of the first week of classes in the semester in which you wish to enroll. Late applications will not be accepted. A decision from the department will be made by the add/drop deadline.
3. Your research proposal should be approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages written in your own words. Explain your role in the project in the first-person voice. Be specific about the experiments that you will be doing. You may include one page with figures (with a figure legend.)
4. Include references (or a reference list) and you also include a copy of the title page from a single journal article that is highly relevant to your proposal.
5. Make sure that your application is complete with all supporting materials, signed and dated by your faculty sponsor. Please enter on the form your official USC email address, whether or not this is your preferred email address.
6. Submit your application online as **ONE** .pdf file using the Google form on the following website:
<https://dornsife.usc.edu/psyc/forms-applications/>
Name your file using the following name format: LAST, First (Advisorlast).pdf
Emailed applications will not be accepted. If your faculty sponsor is not in the Department of Psychology, you may attach your sponsor's CV to your application.
7. **DO NOT** include grades earned in transfer course work when calculating your science GPA.
8. **DO** indicate transfer courses by entering "TR" in the space where the letter grade would be entered.
9. **INCLUDE** a copy of your STARs report with your application. All grades reported on the application will be checked against your STARs report. Applications with grades that are misreported or contain other incorrect information may be denied.
10. You will receive an email when processing of your application is complete. If approved, the email will inform you that you have been given d-clearance and can register.
11. Each student is expected to prepare a written final research report based on his/her own work in the laboratory. You must submit your report to your faculty sponsor and the department in order to earn a grade.
12. Submit your written research report to your faculty sponsor and the department by the **last day of classes** in the semester in which you enroll for PSYCH-290/490x. Submit final reports to the department on the PSYCH website: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/psyc/forms-applications/> You will not receive a grade for PSYCH-290/490x until the department has received a copy of your final research report as well as an email from your faculty sponsor indicating that your research and report meet the standards required for satisfactory completion of a PSYCH-290/490x research project.

PSYCH-490 Directed Research Application

OFFICE USE

CV on File
 Approved Denied

X

Director of Research

Date

Semester	Year	Units*
Fall		
Spring		
Summer		

* 2 or 4 units per semester;
 one semester per form

Contact Information

Student

Please use pen or type

Name:
 USC ID#:
 Phone:
 USC Email:
 Major:

Faculty Sponsor

Name:
 Department:
 Phone:
 Email:

Academic Progress

Class Standing:

Junior
 Senior

GPA:

Science
 Cumulative

PSYCH Core Grade

PSYCH 100	<input type="text"/>
PSYCH 274	<input type="text"/>
PSYCH _____	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Collateral PSYCH Grade

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Please attach the following to this application:

- **Brief summary of the research project** you plan to complete during the semester. Minimum one full page, double-spaced and typed. With the guidance of your Faculty Sponsor, describe the purpose of the study, the working theory or hypothesis, the relationship of the project to earlier work in the field and the laboratory techniques. Include a list of references.
- **Photocopy of the cover page and abstract of at least one research journal article** that you have read to help in the design and execution of the proposed experiments.
- **Curriculum vitae required if your sponsor is out-of-department and PSYCH does not have a current CV on file.** Contact the department to determine whether your out-of-department sponsor's CV is already on file with PSYCH.

Research Agreement

I have read the requirements for PSYCH-490x and have discussed them with my Faculty Sponsor. I am aware that I must conduct the research project appropriately and that I must submit a written research report to my Faculty Sponsor and to the department by the last day of classes. The information entered on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

X Student

Date

I agree to sponsor this student's PSYCH-490x course, to supervise the research with care, and to provide a beneficial learning experience.

I will ensure that the student files a research report with Psychology by the last day of classes and I will provide a grade to the Department by the last day of exams. I am confident that this student is capable of working independently in my laboratory.

Faculty Sponsor

Date

X

PSYCH 490x applications must be submitted to the Google form on the PSYCH website <https://dornsife.usc.edu/psyc/forms-applications> by the end of the first week of classes in the semester in which you wish to enroll. Please make arrangements to meet with your sponsor well in advance. Final decisions will be announced by the add/drop deadline.