

Psychology Subject Pool – Information for PSY 101 Instructors

The UNLV Department of Psychology requires all PSY 101 students to complete a Research Activity by participating in the subject pool to better understand research. Students can participate in studies in-person or online (with a maximum for 3 online credits for students enrolled in in-person courses). If you are unable to participate in research studies due to being younger than 18, or would choose to opt out of doing research, an alternative assignment has been developed by the Psychology department and is described below.

Website and Contact Information:

Visit the Subject Pool [website](#) or email the Subject Pool Coordinator (psychologysubjectpool@unlv.edu).

Student Requirement:

PSY 101 students must complete a total of 6 credits (assigned through the Sona website):

- Credits can be earned through any combination of study and credits and credits from the alternative assignment.
- For in-person courses only: A maximum of 3 credits can be earned through online studies.
- **At least 3 credits must be completed by the semester halfway point.** Only 3 credits can come from the second half of the semester.

All students must register on Sona in order to sign up for studies and for us to track their credits. Because there are a large number of students taking PSY 101 each semester, there are NO EXCEPTIONS to the final deadlines (posted on the Subject Pool website).

Alternative Assignment:

Most studies require students to be 18 years of age. If students are younger than 18 years old, or choose to opt out of doing human subjects research, an alternative assignment has been provided by the Psychology department. Students may complete psychology article summaries (1 summary = 1 credit) instead. Instructions are listed in the Article Summary Form available on the Psychology Sona [website](#).

Grading:

PSY 101 instructors should make the Research Activity worth 10% of the student's total points. Students who complete less than 6 credits should earn partial credit. Each (1.0) SONA credit count for 1.5% of the students' total grade. This will result in SONA credits counting for a total 9% of the total point value for your course. The other 1% of the total grade will come from having students sign up for SONA and correctly place themselves into your section before the end of Week 3 (ideally). Instructors can offer extra credit for completing more than the required credits – if you choose to do this, please clearly describe your policy in your syllabus.

After the final participation deadlines pass (near the end of the semester), the Subject Pool will provide you with a list of credits for your students. If you need to obtain the login information,

please email the Subject Pool Coordinator. Please inform your students right away so that they can resolve any discrepancies or errors.

What Instructors Should Do:

- Include the Research Activity requirement in your syllabus and grading.
- Regularly remind students of the requirement and deadlines (listed on the website).
- Share Subject Pool content (handouts, video, etc.) with your students.
- Refer students to the Subject Pool website and email address.

What Instructors Should NOT Do:

- Accept and score article summaries – these are all submitted via the Google Form associated with the assignment on SONA.
- Assign credits – this is done by researchers and the Subject Pool.
- If researchers contact you to promote their study or to collect data in your class, we strongly suggest that you do not do this. Students may feel pressure to participate, plus studies conducted in your class will use up valuable class time. Also, saying yes to some researchers might encourage even more researchers to contact you. Please simply encourage students to check the list of studies posted in Sona.