

Long Island University

Department of Psychology

Psychology Experience Credits (PEC) Program INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY HANDOUT

Requirement. Students enrolled in Introductory Psychology are expected to earn **SIX (6)** Psychology Experience Credits (PECs). This requirement will a) help students gain first-hand, experiential knowledge about what psychologists do; and b) contribute to the development of new knowledge in psychology.

Students may earn the necessary PECs by participating in one of two activities:

- a. Psychology Research Project: participation in an IRB-approved research project(s) under the supervision of Psychology Department faculty
- b. Psychology Journal Article: identify, read, and write a summary of, an article published within the past year in a psychology journal available in the library. Length of summary depends on number of credits.

Students can choose to participate in a Psychology Research Project(s) for which they fulfill the inclusion criteria on a **first come, first-served** signup basis. In any given semester, if there are not a sufficient number of research projects to accommodate all students taking Introductory Psychology, the remainder of the students will be required to complete Psychology Journal Article options. Toward the end of the semester there may be circumstances in which a student has completed fewer than the required 6 PEC hours but there are no additional research projects available that would meet the student's needs. These students will have the following options: 1) Those students who have completed less than 1 PEC hour will need to complete the two two-credit Psychology Journal option; 2) Those students who have completed at least 3 can receive 1 additional PEC hour by completing the one-credit Psychology Journal Article option.

If you do not complete the PEC Program requirements, your earned grade will automatically decrease by one full letter grade. For example, if you were earning an "A-" and did not complete the PEC Program requirement, your grade will automatically be decreased to a "B-", and so on. If you were earning any grade in the "C" range (C+, C, C-), your grade will automatically be decreased to a "D".

Psychology Research Project

One way students can earn PECs is by participating in IRB-approved research conducted under the supervision of Department of Psychology faculty.¹ Unless the study has specific age eligibility requirements, *students aged 18 and older can participate*. Please note that some studies may have specific age eligibility requirements.

Credit. Participation in an IRB-approved psychology research project will require doing 6 credit hours (PECs). Credit for participating is given in 0.5 hour increments, according to the length of the session (e.g., participating in a session lasting 1 hour is worth 1 PEC; a session lasting 1.5 hours is worth

¹ The Department of Psychology conducts all research in accordance with the ethical guidelines set forth by the American Psychological Association, and as appropriate, with the approval of LIU's IRB. Departmental policies governing the PEC Program are reviewed annually, and revisions that pertain to the participation of human subjects in research are submitted for IRB approval.

1.5 PECs, etc.). If you want to earn credits by participating in research studies only, you must perform 6 hours of study participation.

Sign-Up Procedure & Credit Forms. Students will be directed to the Sona Experiment Management System (Sona) on which current projects will be listed. They will sign up for a study (any one for which they meet eligibility criteria), and follow the directions (e.g., contact the experimenter, go to a certain room at a certain time, etc.).

When completing a session, the researcher will be responsible for assigning credit to the student on the Sona System. Researchers will be required to assign credit within 48 hours of the student's completion of his/her study. Students will be automatically notified when credit has been assigned to them. Instructors will be responsible for signing into Sona to verify whether or not students have received credit(s) in their course. If you have not received credit within 48 hours, see the Study Information to contact the researcher directly.

Cancellation of Intention to Participate. Students who have signed up for a study on Sona will receive e-mail reminders. If a student wishes to cancel his or her intention to participate in a study prior to the day on which the session for that study is scheduled, he/she may do so by logging into his/her student account and cancelling no later than 24 hours prior to the study. **Students who wish to cancel their participation must do so 24 hours prior to the session. Students will not be able to cancel their participation less than 24 hours prior to the start of the study. Students will receive a no-show if they do not show for the scheduled session. You are only allowed 2 no shows.**

Students will earn no PECs for cancelled sessions. Students who are still signed-up on the day of the scheduled session are expected to show-up on time for that session. Students who fail to show for a scheduled session who have not cancelled will not be awarded PEC credit on Sona.

Student "no-show" for a Session. Students will sign up for experiments using the Sona account (which includes their username, full name, e-mail and other information). If a student fails to show up for a scheduled session, no credit will be awarded on Sona and the researcher will inform the PEC Program/Sona System Coordinator (or designate), and provide that student's information. If a student is found to have missed two or more scheduled appointments, he/she will automatically be barred from signing up for research studies on Sona and will be required to complete the full psychology research article option to earn any remaining PECs.

Withdrawal from a Session in Progress. Students are free to leave a research session at any time without penalty. Whether or not a student is awarded PECs for that session depends on when she/he leaves.

Students are not considered enrolled in a study until after they are informed about the study procedures, have indicated their understanding of those procedures, and have signed an informed consent document. If a student shows up for a session but decides not to participate based on information provided during the informed consent process that takes place at the start of the session (i.e., the student does NOT sign the informed consent document, and so does NOT become enrolled in the study, and does NOT begin the actual research), the student will be excused from the session and will not be penalized in any way. In such cases the student will not be awarded any PECs via Sona.

If a student shows up for a session, is appropriately informed about the study, and decides to participate (i.e., the student DOES sign the informed consent document, and so DOES become enrolled in the study, and DOES begin the actual research), but then later decides to withdraw from the research for any reason, the student is free to do so. In these cases, the student is to be awarded the same PECs she/he would have earned had she/he completed the session via Sona. Such a student also should be offered the same debriefing given to participants who complete the entire session so that she/he may obtain the educational benefit afforded by the debriefing.

Students who withdraw from a session after signing the informed consent document are strongly encouraged to contact the PEC Faculty Coordinator as soon as possible. The researcher must report all

such events to the PEC Faculty Coordinator, whose responsibility is to ensure that all reasonable and prudent measures are taken to follow-up (e.g., contact with the researcher about the event, about the student's response, etc.).

Psychology Journal Article

Another way students may earn PECs is by choosing the Psychology Journal Article option. This option and specific procedures (described below) is posted on Psychology Department bulletin board on the 8th floor of the Humanities building. If you wish to earn all 6 PECs by completing this option, you must complete **THREE** TWO-CREDIT options. You may also supplement any PECs you earned by participating in Psychology Research Projects. For example, perhaps you earned 3 PECs by participant in studies, you can then complete one 2-credit and one 1-credit journal article to earn the full 6 PECs.

TWO-CREDIT OPTION:

Students will be asked to identify, read, and write a two page (at least 500 words) summary of, a research article published within the past calendar year in a PEC Program-approved psychology journal available in the library. This will involve going to the library, retrieving a research article, reading it, and writing a summary of it. Acceptable summaries must be written in the students' own words and include:

1. Word count generated by the word processing program
2. a complete reference to the summarized article in APA format
3. a brief description, in the student's own words, of
 - a. the purpose of the research (what theory or hypothesis was tested)
 - b. the basic procedure used to test the theory or hypothesis
 - c. what was found
 - d. what the findings mean for the theory or hypothesis
 - e. other related issues, i.e., how society might use these findings, or what additional research seems appropriate
4. a photocopy of the abstract from the published research article

ONE- CREDIT OPTION:

Students will be asked to identify, read, and write a one page (200-500 word) summary of, a research article published within the past calendar year in a PEC Program-approved psychology journal available in the library. This will involve going to the library, retrieving a research article, reading it, and writing a summary of it. Acceptable summaries will be written in the student's own words and include:

1. Word count generated by the word processing program
2. a complete reference to the summarized article in APA format
3. a brief description, in the student's own words, of
 - a. the purpose of the research (what theory or hypothesis was tested)
 - b. the basic procedure used to test the theory or hypothesis
 - c. what was found
 - d. what the findings mean for the theory or hypothesis
 - e. other related issues, i.e., how society might use these findings, or what additional research seems appropriate
4. a photocopy of the abstract from the published research article

Listed below you will find a roster of approved Psychology Journals that can be *found in the Electronic Reserves (PsycArticles and PsycInfo) or the Periodical Section of the Library on the fourth floor*. You must choose one article from any of these journals. The article must describe an empirical study – make sure there is a methods and results section!!

Journals	Journals
Animal learning & behavior	Journal of experimental psychology: animal behavior processes
Behavioral neuroscience	Journal of experimental psychology Applied
The Behavioral and brain sciences	Journal of experimental psychology. General
Biological Psychology	Journal of experimental psychology. Learning, memory, and cognition
Brain and language	Journal of experimental research in personality
The British journal of clinical psychology	Journal of experimental social psychology
The British journal of developmental psychology	Journal of memory and language
The British journal of educational psychology	The Journal of mind and behavior
The British Journal of psychiatry	Journal of organizational behavior
British journal of psychology	Journal of personality
British journal of social and clinical psychology	Journal of personality and social psychology
Clinical psychology review	Journal of school psychology
Cognitive science	Neuropsychologia
Cognitive therapy and research	Organizational behavior and human decision processes
Contemporary educational psychology	Perceptual and motor skills
European journal of social psychology	Personality & social psychology bulletin
Health psychology	Professional psychology, research and practice
The journal of abnormal psychology	Psychological assessment/ American Psychological Association
Journal of applied behavioral analysis	Psychological bulletin
Journal of applied developmental psychology	Psychological reports
Journal of clinical child and adolescent psychology	Psychological science: a journal of the American Psychological Society/ APS
Journal of clinical and child psychology	Psychology and education
Journal of clinical issues in psychology	The Quarterly journal of experimental psychology
Journal of clinical psychology	The Quarterly journal of experimental psychology. A, Human experimental psychology
The Journal of comparative and physiological psychology	The Quarterly journal of experimental psychology. B Comparative and physiological psychology
Journal of consulting and clinical psychology	Rehabilitation psychology
Journal of consulting psychology	Journal of cross-cultural psychology
Journal of experimental psychology	

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
Department of Psychology

PSYCHOLOGY EXPERIENCE CREDITS (PEC) PROGRAM
INFORMATION SHEET

To sign up for the Sona website:

Sign in to your My LIU account by going to <http://my.liu.edu>. You should receive an e-mail from **Psychology PEC** containing your individual class Sona User ID and Password. Also in that e-mail will be your individual class Identity Code, which you will use when corresponding with the researcher. **The Identity Code is the only way you will be identified to the researcher. Please bring this code with you when you participate in a research study or you may not receive credit!**

For your convenience, please note your Sona User ID, Password and Identity Code below.

User ID: _____

Password: _____

Identity Code: _____

To sign up for a PEC study:

Any time you wish to sign up for a study, you will need to log in to the Sona website using your User ID and Password, and follow instructions.

<http://bkliu.sona-systems.com>

Introductory Psychology PEC Program requirements:

Students are expected to earn 6 Psychology Experience Credits (PECs) by participating in one of two activities:

- a) **Psychology Research Project:** participation in an IRB-approved research project(s) under the supervision of Psychology Department faculty. You can sign up for a project on the Sona website.
- b) **Psychology Journal Article:** identify, read, and write a summary of an article published within the past year in a psychology journal available in the library. Full details are available on the Introductory Psychology Student Handout. Required length depends on credits.

You can find additional information about the PEC Program, including a full description of the Introductory Psychology Student Handout and PEC Program requirements, on the LIU-Brooklyn Psychology Department website.

If you have any problems or questions please see the PEC board located outside the psychology department on the 8th floor of the Humanities building.