

How to Get Involved in PSYC 4800: Special Problems

- This is a course designed for the advanced undergraduate who wishes to participate in supervised research. Students in this course act as undergraduate research assistants in one of the Psychology department's laboratories. The list of Psychology labs and the faculty members that direct each of them can be seen here: <http://www.psychology.uga.edu/research/labs>
- Working as a research assistant is an excellent experience for students who wish to apply to graduate programs. This is also a great way to connect with a faculty member who may be able to write you a recommendation letter for graduate school. Students participating in research labs also often get the opportunity to present research at the annual Psi Chi Convention of the Behavioral Sciences. In addition, PSYC 4800 completes the UGA Experiential Learning Requirement.
- Research assistants working in Psychology labs gain skills including:
 - Psychology Laboratory Operations
 - Understanding and Formulation of Hypotheses
 - Development of Research Projects and Experiments
 - Designing Materials
 - Running Experiments
 - Data Extraction/Management/Cleaning
 - Collecting and Analyzing Data
 - Understanding of Psychological Constructs
 - Analyzation and Discussion of Psychological Research Articles
 - Expertise in Teamwork
 - Scientific Writing
 - Presentation Skills
- Students wishing to participate in PSYC 4800 research can get involved by discussing participation with a faculty member directly. Students may already have a faculty member that they have developed a relationship with due to having had them as a professor for a course previously. If not, students can browse the Psychology research labs in order to find faculty members. When looking at the Psychology research labs on the Psychology website, students can see which faculty member directs the lab or labs that they are interested in and the contact information for that faculty member. If the faculty member's contact

information is not listed on the research lab webpage, it can be found here:

<http://psychology.uga.edu/directory/front>

- Students often select multiple labs that they are interested in and contact multiple faculty members in case there are some labs not accepting research assistants. Students can email the faculty members a brief message asking them if they are accepting undergraduate research assistants for the upcoming semester. This process of contacting faculty members should be started approximately **two months in advance of class registration** for the upcoming semester. If a faculty member does need students, they may request a meeting with the student in order to learn more about them (i.e. GPA, research interests, plans after graduation, etc.). If a student is selected by a faculty member to work in their lab, then the PSYC 4800 registration process is started.
- PSYC 4800 credits are determined by discussing the amount of work required by the faculty member directing the lab. Course credits received in PSYC 4800 can range from one to three credits. The credit hours received are based on the amount of hours a student commits to working in the lab. For one hour credit, the student will work three hours weekly. For two credit hours, the student will work six hours weekly. For three credit hours, the student will work nine hours weekly. Only three credits of PSYC 4800 can be completed per semester, but the course can be repeated for a total of nine hours overall.
- In order to get enrolled in PSYC 4800, students need to get a **blue PSYC 4800 form** from the **Psychology Advising Office in Psych 219**. This form needs to be completed by the student and faculty member under which the student will be working and returned to the Psychology Advising Office. The, by the last day of classes in the semester, a **PSYC 4800 evaluation form** will need to be completed. This form can be picked up in the Psychology Advising Office but needs to be returned to the **Psychology Main Office** once completed.