

**RESEARCH PARTICIPATION PERMISSION FORM
FOR STUDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE**

Guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services prohibit the use of children who are under the age of 18 as participants in psychological research unless permission is granted by their parents or guardians.

_____ is presently enrolled in a psychology course and as part of that course, exposure to the research process that forms the basis of the science of psychology is required. Students may fulfill this requirement by serving as participants in ongoing research projects. Students may also fulfill this requirement by writing a paper summarizing a published research project.

The Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma believes that exposure to psychological research provides the student with a positive educational benefit by experiencing first hand the research process by which data about human behavior are gathered. This experience with research strengthens the students' foundational knowledge of psychology as well as making them more sophisticated and critical consumers of research results presented in textbooks or in the news media.

Students under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate in research studies unless they have parental consent. Before you sign the statement below, we request that you read the following page, which describes briefly the Department of Psychology and the various types of research conducted by members of the department and their associates. If, after reviewing the information, you will allow your child/guardian to participate, please complete the following statement and return this form.

_____ has my permission to serve in research projects approved and monitored by the Departmental Review Committee of the Department of Psychology and/or the Institutional Review Board of the University of Oklahoma.

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Please print your name here.

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Official Use Only: CC: _____ Date: _____

Notes: _____

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Note: This letter is yours to keep.

The Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma is composed of approximately 19 full-time faculty, 50 graduate students, and 700 undergraduate psychology majors. Approximately 75 research projects using human participants are carried out in the Psychology Department every year. Participation in this research activity allows your son or daughter the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of science as well as to obtain knowledge in the various areas of psychological research. In addition, participation in research studies provides first-hand information on how psychological research is conducted. We feel that this is a rewarding educational experience and is also useful in evaluating research as we read about it in textbooks and the media. Finally, we as researchers are interested in allowing the student to experience some of the intellectual excitement that is always a part of the research enterprise. Many psychologists first became interested in research as a result of the interest that was aroused when they served as participants in a research project.

The topics investigated in the various research studies are as diverse as the field of psychology itself. However, the majority of studies investigate such topics as learning, memory, perception, attitudes, interaction of small groups, human-computer interactions, and the effect of personality on social behavior and task performance.

Each of the studies conducted in the Department of Psychology which will result in the publication of the results is reviewed by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Oklahoma, a committee of researchers and faculty from different departments in the university, whose job it is to safeguard the safety of research participants. The committee follows guidelines established by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and the American Psychological Association. To be approved, a researcher must convince the members of the board that the participants will be treated fairly by the researcher and that any physical or psychological discomfort will be minimal. Prior to participation in a study, each potential participant is informed about aspects of the study that could reasonably be expected to affect his or her decision to participate in the study, and each participant signs a statement indicating that he or she has received this information. In addition, each student may drop out of any study at any time if he or she finds that it is objectionable for any reason. If such is the case, the researcher may not use persuasion, coercion, or threats to induce the student to remain in the study. If the study asks the participant personal questions, the participant may simply refuse to answer, without fear of embarrassment or coercion, those questions which he or she deems objectionable or threatening. In all cases, the names of the persons serving in a study and the answers they give are treated as confidential information to the fullest extent possible. The names of the research participants are never associated with their responses in any published documents without the written consent of the participant.

All researchers are required to explain the nature of the study to each participant before dismissing the participant. The purpose of the study and the reasons for the way the study was conducted are explained so that they are clear to the participants. This ensures that participation in the study will be a learning experience for the participants.

If further information is desired about research conducted by the members of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma, please contact:

Departmental Research Participant Coordinator
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