

Psychology Participant Pool

Information for Psychology Instructors

The Psychology Department Research Participant Pool is a collective resource for the use of departmental researchers. The Pool works as follows: at the start of each term, instructors offer optional bonus points (maximum of 3) in their courses. Students register in the Participant Pool System (<https://uwindsor.sona-systems.com/>) and indicate the courses that they are taking. Researchers post studies to the system or sometimes (with approval) contact participants directly to recruit student participants. Students receive points from researchers upon their study completion. At the end of the term, instructors are sent a list of students who earned points in their course.

All psychology courses are automatically opted into the Pool, unless they choose to opt-out. To opt-out of the Participant Pool, instructors must contact the Pool at psycpool@uwindsor.ca and the Committee Chair and include rationale for non-participation. First- and second-year courses are required to offer three bonus points. Third- and fourth-year courses can offer 1-3 bonus points, which must be communicated to the Pool. All sections of PSYC 1150 and PSYC 1160 are automatically included to offer 3 bonus marks.

If you do choose to offer bonus points, please note that alternative assignments must also be provided in your course in lieu of pool participation. Below are details.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Bonus Marks and Alternate Assignments

1. Per department policy, one bonus point = one hour of research participation = 1% added to the final grade in the course.
2. The bonus mark system is 0.5 credit = 30 minutes of participation. Thus, students in first- and second-year courses take part in 3 hours of research to earn 3 credits, upper year instructors can determine the number of credits they wish to offer (1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 or 3). 1 bonus mark equals 1% added to the final grade in the course.
3. Per ethical guidelines, instructors who offer bonus marks must also offer an alternate assignment. This is necessary to accommodate students who choose not to take part in studies, or who are unable to enroll in sufficient studies to earn their full complement of marks.
4. Alternate assignments should be meaningful tasks which take about the same amount of time as it would take to participate in a study. Summarizing unassigned sections of textbooks or applying knowledge to a focused, novel problem are examples of effective assignments. These can be quickly reviewed to ensure that students put in reasonable effort before assigning the bonus mark.
5. Alternate assignments should be worth 1 credit apiece. Offering large "block" assignments worth multiple points is NOT an acceptable alternative assignment and undermines the purpose of the Pool.
6. The points allocated to research bonus marks should be able to be earned through research participation, alternate assignments, or both. However, double credit for doing both is not appropriate (i.e. If your course has the option of earning 3 bonus points, students cannot be

credited more than 3 bonus points regardless of how many research studies and bonus assignments they complete.)

We would appreciate if you would draw students' attention to this information, and also thank students for their ongoing involvement. Please direct them to the participant manual under "Participant Pool" on the psychology department's website. Any efforts to point out the advantages of bonus marks to students are appreciated.

Details about the Participant Pool are available in the participant and researcher manuals on the departmental web site.

Throughout the term, as questions and/or issues arise, please send all queries to psycpool@uwindsor.ca.

Please add the following information to the outline for all courses offering bonus points:

Psychology Department Research Participant Pool

The Psychology Department Research Participant Pool provides an opportunity for students to learn about research in psychology by participating in studies conducted by faculty, graduate students, and honours students. The Participant Pool works as follows: at the start of each term, instructors offer points in their courses. Students register in the Participant Pool system (<https://uwindsor.sona-systems.com/>) and indicate the courses that they are taking. Researchers post studies to the system or sometimes contact participants directly to recruit student participants. Students receive points from researchers upon their study completion. At the end of the term, instructors are sent a list of students who earned points in their course. Courses vary in the number of bonus marks they offer (from 1 to 3). Instructors also offer an alternate assignment which you can complete, in case you do not wish to take part in studies or if you are unable to earn a sufficient number of credits from studies. Each point earned is worth 1% towards your final course grade. For a course which allows you to earn 3 bonus points, you can have up to 3% added to your final grade; this is potentially enough for an entire grade change (e.g., from 67%, C+ to 70%, B-).

You are encouraged to register in the system during the registration period at the beginning of the term. Registration does not mean you must take part in studies but leaves you the option of doing so later. You must SELF-REGISTER for the Participant Pool by accessing the pool web site and following the instructions there: <http://uwindsor.sona-systems.com>. **You MUST self-register before the specified date on this website's homepage.** If you have registered in the system in a prior term, you MUST log in to your account during this time period and complete the pre-screen and course selection to re-activate your account. The sooner you register, the sooner you may be invited to earn bonus points. You will NOT be able to register after registration closes.

Experiments that you can participate in will be posted on the Participant Pool website and you can sign up for studies directly on the website. Check the system often as new experiments get added throughout the term. You must finalize assignment of points earned to courses in the system by the deadline. This deadline—and other important dates—are listed on the website's homepage. Students taking part in studies are expected to be familiar with the Participant Pool policy manual, available on the Psychology website (www.uwindsor.ca/psychology). If you have any questions or concerns about your involvement in the Participant Pool during the term, please email psycpool@uwindsor.ca.