



## **SUPERVISED RESEARCH (PSY-509)**

*Updated August 2022*

### *Catalog Description*

Participation in all or several phases of the research process, including literature review, research design, creation of materials and stimuli, data collection, data entry, and data analysis and interpretation. Must produce a written or oral summary of the research project. May be retaken for credit. Does not contribute to major requirements. Variable credit. Prerequisites: PSY-111 and (PSY-202 or BIO-222) and instructor permission.

### *Overview*

Supervised Research (PSY-509) provides students with a credit-bearing opportunity to conduct research during the academic year with a professor in Furman's Psychology Department. Participating students will be involved in multiple phases of the research process, including for example:

- conducting a literature review, generating a testable research question
- designing a study, creating research materials (e.g., stimuli, scripts, protocols, surveys, program code)
- preparing an application to either the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- collecting, entering, and cleaning data
- analyzing and interpreting data
- disseminating study results through a manuscript or presentation

The specific tasks required to earn credit will be decided by the student and the supervising faculty member in accordance with the guidelines described below. The agreement will be specified in a contract that must be signed by the student, supervising faculty member, and chair of the department no later than the last day of web-based course adjustments (drop/add) as specified by the university's academic calendar.

Students can enroll in PSY-509 for either 2- or 4-credits and will earn a letter grade determined by the faculty research supervisor. The course does *not* count toward the requirements of the psychology major, but may be factored into the student's major GPA.

Students are permitted to enroll in PSY-509 multiple times with the following caveats: (1) no more than one PSY-509 in a single semester unless both faculty members give their written permission at the time of enrollment, and (2) per university policy, no more than 12 hours of credit earned through individualized instruction (i.e., PSY-505, PSY-509, PSY-510) may contribute to the 128 credits required for graduation.

### *Tips for Students*

- If you're new to research, we recommend first getting an overview of the research opportunities available in the Psychology Department. Find out about faculty members' research areas by reading their bios on the department website or reviewing their research statements/videos posted on the department's Moodle page. Contact professors whose research areas interest you and ask how you can get involved.
- If you're already involved in a psychology lab, Supervised Research is a great way to either prepare for a summer research experience in the spring before your Furman Research Fellowship or to continue a research project after the summer ends.
- Students who choose to do a thesis project in their senior year typically enroll in Supervised Research (PSY-509) for 2-credits in the fall semester and Thesis (PSY-510) for 4-credits in the spring semester.

## Supervised Research Guidelines

The number of credits earned in PSY-509 is based on the number of hours students spend working on the project over the course of the semester.

*Two Credits:* Requires a minimum average of **5 hours per week across the semester**, including both independent work and meetings with the faculty supervisor and/or lab group. Total commitment over the semester: minimum 75 hours.

*Four Credits:* Requires a minimum average of **10 hours per week across the semester**, including both independent work and meetings with the faculty supervisor and/or lab group. Total commitment over the semester: minimum 150 hours.

The specific goals of a Supervised Research experience depend on the specifics of the project, including whether the research is just beginning, if data collection is ongoing, or if the study is nearing completion and the focus is on dissemination.

### *Beginning Phase Research (before data collection)*

Students who are involved in research projects in their early stages ordinarily engage in the following tasks: review the scientific literature, prepare an annotated bibliography, identify a research question, design a study, run a power analysis, write a research proposal, create research materials (e.g., stimuli, surveys, protocol, script, program code), write an IRB or IACUC application, and collect pilot data.

### *Mid-Phase Research (after a study has been designed)*

Students who join ongoing projects that have already been designed typically engage in the following tasks: collect pilot data and refine study design/materials, recruit participants, collect and enter data, manage data sets, read scientific literature, create a poster presentation describing the project.

### *Late Phase Research (after most data has been collected)*

Students who join projects that are nearing completion usually engage in the following tasks: recruit participants, collect and enter data, manage data sets, analyze, visualize and interpret data, read scientific literature, write pieces of a manuscript, create a poster presentation describing the project, design a follow-up study.

The specific tasks assigned to a student enrolled in Supervised Research will be outlined in a contract. All PSY-509 experiences must include:

- reading the scientific literature
- individual meetings between the student and supervising faculty member to discuss expectations and progress on the project
- a culminating product which may take the form of a written document (e.g., conference abstract, IRB application, literature review, manuscript draft, research proposal), a conference presentation, and/or a reflective activity