

THE RESEARCHER'S GUIDE TO THE PSYCHOLOGY SUBJECT POOL AND INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY BATTERY

-- (Updated October 2009) --

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All researchers are responsible for knowing and following the rules in this guide.
P.I.'s are also responsible for ensuring that all research assistants know and follow these rules.
Give them this guide -- particularly section III -- to read!
Copies are available at <http://www.psych.nyu.edu/research/recruit.html>.

Note: The subject pool administrator is Catharine Lennon in Room 402. The best way to get in touch with her is through her e-mail for this purpose (psych.subjects@nyu.edu). Or leave her a message in the "Psychology Subject Pool" mailbox in room 550. Please contact her if problems arise, if you need additional subject hours, etc.

I. OBTAINING ETHICS APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF HUMAN SUBJECTS

All studies require human subjects approval from both the psychology pool supervisor and the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects (UCAIHS) **before** they begin. The UCAIHS is NYU's IRB (institutional review board). Applications for subject pool use are available as MS Word documents at <http://www.psych.nyu.edu/research/recruit.html>. Submit electronic applications, including consent, parental permission and debriefing forms, to jim.uleman@nyu.edu. Following his approval, submit electronic applications with all signatures (all investigators and faculty sponsor) and measures, to apply.humansubjects@nyu.edu. Catharine Lennon will sign the department approval on behalf of Jim Uleman. Signature pages should be sent as scanned pdfs. Detailed information is available on the UCAIHS web site at <http://www.nyu.edu/ucaihs/about/electronic/>. Complete the application carefully and completely. **This procedure should also be used if you will be recruiting both pool subjects and adult (18 or over) non-pool subjects for the same study.**

For recruiting human participants from other sources for studies that do not include the pool, you should apply for approval directly from the UCAIHS. For this approval, you must use the UCAIHS *Application for Review by the University Committee on Activities Involving Human Subjects*, downloadable from www.nyu.edu/ucaihs, under Forms and Guidance. For more information about application requirements and guidance, and forms for non-pool subject UCAIHS approvals, please consult the same website. Please send such applications directly to the UCAIHS at apply.humansubjects@nyu.edu.

Most applications qualify for expedited review and are reviewed by the UCAIHS staff on a rolling basis, as they are received. A minority of applications go through a "full board review" at a scheduled UCAIHS meeting. For details, please see the UCAIHS web site at <http://www.nyu.edu/ucaihs/>. UCAIHS approval is almost always for one year starting with the date of the first UCAIHS approval.

When your application has received full approval from the UCAIHS, you will be notified by e-mail, and your date-stamped approved consent and permission forms will be sent as attachments.

CONTINUING STUDIES TO NEXT SEMESTERS

Once your study has been entered in Sona, you may continue to run subjects in the fall semester, spring semester, and both summer sessions until your UCAIHS approval needs updating on Sona. It is not necessary to submit a request for subject hours each semester.

Note that the UCAIHS also requires annual reports on on-going or recently completed studies. Their reporting year depends on when they originally approve your study, and is unlikely to correspond to the academic year. Therefore, it is important that you continue to use the same distinctive study title and unique short name for any study you conduct. It is also important for you to list your external grant

title on your application (p. 1), so the IRB (UCAIHS) knows which grant is funding your study. The UCAIHS will send each investigator a letter requesting annual review approximately three months before the expiration date of the approval. The letter will include the instructions and forms for the review. These should be returned electronically to the UCAIHS directly at apply.humansubjects@nyu.edu no later than a month before the expiration date.

II. SUBJECT HOURS ALLOCATION

You will receive permission from Catharine Lennon to run a specified number of subject hours. Only studies approved by the UCAIHS (the IRB) by the last day of the spring semester may be run during summer sessions 1 and 2.

Hours are generally allocated in batches of approximately 200 credit hours at a time. When these hours are used, additional hours may be requested. Requests for additional hours must be made in writing, by email, to Catharine Lennon at psych.subjects@nyu.edu.

PLEASE APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL HOURS WHEN YOU ARE NEARING THE END OF YOUR ALLOCATION. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE COMPLETELY USED UP AND YOU NEED AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ALLOCATION.

III. RUNNING SUBJECTS

**** Make sure all research assistants read this! ****

SIGN-UP MECHANISM

1. After your study has been approved, it will be posted on the web site the department uses for scheduling studies: <http://nyu-psych.sona-systems.com>. Catharine Lennon will notify you when your study has been posted on the web. Both your user name and your password to the web site will be your NYU Net ID (located on the back of your NYU ID card); your Net ID is the first part of your NYU e-mail address, without the suffix "@nyu.edu."

2. Once your study has been entered on the web, you must enter information about your study for students who want to sign up.

3. Study credits must be in 1/2 hour increments, rounding up. If your study takes 45 minutes, participants must be given 1 hour's credit. **YOU MAY NOT SAY THAT THE STUDY TAKES LESS TIME THAN POSTED**, which can only be in terms half-hour (0.5) and/or hour (1.0) credit units!

4. Your description of your study should include its NAME (the unique short name on your application form), a brief abstract and a detailed description. Be brief and informative, so students can sample different kinds of studies.

5. **Flashy descriptions of studies are PROHIBITED.** The description of the study should be brief and informative. But we do not want to encourage fierce competition in subject recruitment. Examples of prohibited descriptives are, "Fun!" "Easy!" "Sexy!" "Enlightening!" and "Thrilling!" You get the idea. We will monitor study descriptions and ask you to make changes, if necessary. If that does not work, inappropriately described studies will be removed from the list and your use of Sona for sign-ups will be temporarily suspended.

LOCATION OF STUDIES

All studies should be conducted in the Meyer Building (6 Washington Place). Only if there is an extraordinary need for facilities not available in this building should studies be conducted elsewhere. If a non-Meyer location is used, the necessity of conducting the study there must be reviewed and approved by the subject pool supervisor. When entering the location of your study on Sona, please be sure to include "Meyer" in addition to the relevant floor or room number, e.g., "Meyer 7th floor waiting area."

TELEPHONE RECRUITING

If you wish to recruit subjects by telephone (a practice not allowed unless justified by a need to reach special subsets of students in our subject pool), you must receive explicit permission from the subject pool supervisor. If you do receive such permission, lists of participants who have given consent

to be phoned, with their subject pool ID (which is not their SS#), battery and phone numbers, are available from Catharine Lennon in room 402. **Even if you are not recruiting through the web site, you must enter your study's name, description, contact information, etc. on the web site.** This way, subjects will know your study is legitimate. They will also be notified of appointments by email and reminded automatically the evening before.

OTHER MEANS OF RECRUITING

You may ordinarily recruit subject pool subjects only by the official Sona web site. As stated above, to recruit pool participants by telephone or email, you must get special approval from the subject pool supervisor and from the UCAIHS. Posting signs advertising for subject pool participants for subject hour credit is strictly forbidden. The only approved posting of signs must be for paid participants (whether they are also in the pool or not). Such signs must be submitted to Catharine Lennon, and must use the Paid Study form available in section A of <http://www.psych.nyu.edu/research/recruit.html>.

RECORD KEEPING

Two forms of records of subject participation are kept. Both records are important!

(A) **SUBJECT'S PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK SHEET:** Sign the subject's own "Participation and Feedback Sheet," which (s)he uses during the semester to document his or her research participation, and to give the department feedback on each study. This is both the subject's own record and a receipt. If a participant does not have a sheet, write him/her a note that will function as a receipt. S/he can fill in the feedback part on their sheet later. Students need these records if there are any record-keeping errors.

The Participation and Feedback Sheet is not optional. **DO NOT TELL SUBJECTS THAT THIS DOESN'T MATTER!**

(B) **RESEARCHER'S SUBJECT USAGE REPORTS:** Researchers are responsible for giving participants credit for participation on their study's web page. This should be done at the end of each day, and certainly no later than the next day. You should also record no-shows and assign any penalties (see below). Students are advised to check their web site participation records frequently, to be sure their participation has been credited, and to notify the subject pool administrator if it has not been. A researcher's chronic failure to record participants' credits promptly can (and will) result in their study(ies) being cancelled, after one warning.

Catharine Lennon can generate a list of participants, no-shows, and the credits and penalties for each study during the semester. But you should keep your own records of participation, because these will not be routinely provided to researchers.

If you have finished running subjects for the term, make sure to cancel any remaining open sign-up times.

NO-SHOWS

Participants will automatically be notified of their appointments by email, and sent email reminders of their appointments early in the evening of the day before. They are permitted to cancel their appointments for a study up to 8 hours before it is scheduled to begin. Any appointment cancelled 8 hours or more before the study will automatically become available to other students. If they have to cancel with fewer than 8 hours to go before the study, they cannot do this on the web. Instead, they must contact the researcher as soon as they realize they can't show up for an appointment, by phone or email. If they are able to reach you, you may cancel their appointment without penalty, and may reschedule them for another time on your study's web page. Otherwise, they incur the penalty; and you must enter it on the web page.

When subjects miss a study without letting you know beforehand, you should penalize them on the study's web page. Note that the no-show penalty is 1/2 hour for all studies, regardless of the length of the study.

LATE SHOWS

Each researcher decides how late to wait to begin an experimental session, and how long to wait for late participants. If you wait and start late, do not imply to participants that being late for other studies is all right. Most studies must begin on time, and participants should know that being late by only a few minutes will be counted as a no-show by most researchers.

RESEARCHER CANCELLATIONS

Principal investigators are responsible for ensuring that the studies they advertise go on as scheduled. If you know you must cancel an appointment 4 days or more before the study is scheduled, and you cannot find a substitute researcher to run the study, you may cancel it. Students who have signed up will be notified of the cancellation automatically. Fewer than 4 days before the study, appointments should be canceled only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., medical emergency, family tragedy), and only when no substitute researcher can be found. In such circumstances, the PI must give full credit to all subjects who signed up. As a courtesy, subjects who signed up should also be contacted and informed of the reason for the cancellation. PIs may lose their subject pool privileges if a study is canceled for less serious reasons, less than 4 days before it was scheduled. PIs should please be sure that all researchers under their supervision are familiar with this cancellation policy.

IV. ADDITIONAL NOTES

THE EVENING CLASS of Introductory Psychology, and other evening psychology courses, participate in the subject pool. You must schedule at least some of your studies during evening hours (i.e., after 6 PM on days when the evening Introductory Psychology class does not meet). If this is impossible for you, contact Catharine Lennon.

WEEKEND RUNNING of studies is possible and encouraged, to give students more opportunities to fulfill the lab requirement. Graduate and undergraduate students who are running subjects can be given access to the building through Veronica Holton. They will have to meet participants in the lobby and have them sign in and out. If you are running subjects during the weekend, please e-mail Catharine Lennon at the beginning of the week with a list of the names of the participants, the dates and times of their appointments, the location of lab, and the name and phone number of the contact person in the lab. This information will be provided to Protection Services and the Lobby Security Guard in the Meyer Building.

THE LAST DAY to run subjects is ordinarily the last day of classes. Generally, studies using the subject pool are not conducted during the week of final exams, although exceptions may be made at the discretion of the subject pool supervisor.

RESPONSIBILITY OF P.I.

The principal investigator, listed on page 1 and the request for subject hours, is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the obligations specified are properly fulfilled, regardless of whether a doctoral, masters, or undergraduate tutorial student is performing these obligations on a day-to-day basis. Only faculty members and doctoral students are ordinarily given access to the web site for scheduling appointments and giving credit.

V. THE INTRO. PSYCH. BATTERY

The Introductory Psychology Battery (aka "Introductory Psychology Measures Demonstration") is designed to give Intro. students on-line exposure to a variety of scales and (not incidentally) give researchers an opportunity to pre-test participants early in the semester. You must apply to have your measure(s) included in the battery in any given semester, usually 5-6 weeks before the semester begins.

You must also agree to enter your measure into the web-based survey once it is approved, and to proctor some of the in-class administrations of the battery. See the application form for details.

The Battery carries 1 of the 7 credits that students in Intro. Psych. earn, and it is restricted to 1 hour. Applications for the Battery usually exceed this time limit, so some scales are reassigned to the Battery Supplement. This is run as a regular study, early in the semester so that it is useful for preselecting subjects. If you do not need to sample from real extremes of a scale's distribution, or preselect from most of the Intro. Psych. class, the Battery Supplement may work well for you. It is most suitable for giving scales to a smaller segment of the class in a setting dissociated from your study.