

PSYC7105: 1st Year Research
Section: TB
Credits: 3

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

PSYC 7105 represents the supervised research hours required to complete your 1st Year Research Project in Psychology, fulfilling one of the first milestones of your doctoral progression. This course is designed to guide you from your initial entry into the School of Psychology through the successful completion of a project that supports future doctoral candidacy. Over the course of these credit hours, you will work closely with your faculty advisor to conceptualize a research topic, execute the study, and prepare a manuscript for publication.

This specific course focuses entirely on your independent ability to execute rigorous, graduate-level psychological research.

Prerequisites for Completion

Work on your first year project should begin immediately upon your entry into the program. There are no pre-requisites, but it is expected you also register for and pursue other program requirements in parallel with this research activity.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of your 1st Year Research, you should be able to:

- **Formulate** an original, theoretically grounded research question that addresses a meaningful gap in the current psychological literature.
- **Design and execute** a methodologically rigorous empirical study, demonstrating proficiency in selecting appropriate experimental paradigms, psychometric measures, and sampling strategies.
- **Analyze** complex psychological data using advanced statistical techniques, translating raw data into interpretable, evidence-based conclusions.
- **Navigate** the professional and ethical requirements of psychological research, including securing committee alignment, obtaining IRB approval, and managing data collection logistics.
- **Author** a comprehensive, publication-ready empirical manuscript that adheres to the formatting guidelines of the Georgia Tech Graduate School and the highest standards of the APA.

Required Course Material

There is no textbook.

Grading Policy

Because PSYC 7105 spans multiple semesters, your progress and grade are tracked through the successful completion of the following sequential milestones:

Semester I: The Proposal Phase

The goal of the first semester is to establish the theoretical foundation and methodological plan for your study.

- **Milestone 1: Topic Finalization (10%)**
 - Development and Submission of your finalized research question to your advisor.
- **Milestone 2: Annotated Bibliography & Literature Review (20%)**
 - A comprehensive synthesis of at least 15-20 peer-reviewed articles that form the theoretical background (Introduction section) of your project.
- **Milestone 3: Methodology and Analysis Plan (20%)**
 - A detailed draft of your proposed Methods section (participants, materials, procedures) and your planned statistical analyses.
- **Milestone 4: IRB Protocol Draft (10%)**
 - A completed draft of your IRB application (or an amendment if integrating into an ongoing data collection).
- **Final Deliverable: The Research Proposal (40%)**
 - A polished, APA-formatted (or other format as required by target journal) document encompassing the Introduction, Methods, and Proposed Analysis. This must be reviewed and approved by your supervisor.

Semester II: The Execution Phase

The goal of the second semester is to execute the proposed study, analyze the data, and write the final manuscript.

- **Milestone 1: Data Collection Logistics & IRB Approval (10%)**
 - Successfully launching your study. If using pre-existing data, this grade reflects the completion of data cleaning, merging, and variable coding.
- **Milestone 2: Results Section Draft (20%)**
 - A draft of your statistical findings, including appropriate data visualizations, tables, and a written narrative of the results.
- **Milestone 3: Discussion Section Draft (15%)**
 - A draft interpreting your results, acknowledging study limitations, and proposing future directions for the research.
- **Milestone 4: Second Reader Review Draft (15%)**
 - *Crucial Deadline:* The complete, integrated document must be submitted to your advisor at least two weeks prior to the end of the term to allow time for feedback and revisions.
- **Final Deliverable: 1st Year Project manuscript (40%)**
 - The final, revised APA-formatted manuscript (or other format as required by target journal). To receive a passing grade, you must have completed a publication-quality manuscript, but it does not need to have been submitted or accepted for publication by the end of the project period

Course Grading Scale (Applies to both semesters)

- **A:** 90.0% – 100%
- **B:** 80.0% – 89.9%
- **C:** 70.0% – 79.9%
- **D:** 60.0% – 69.9%
- **F:** Below 60.0%

Course Policies

Supervisory Meetings

Your progression through these milestones relies on regular, professional engagement with your Advisor. You are expected to schedule and attend recurring supervisory meetings, arriving prepared with updates on your literature review, data collection, or manuscript drafting.

Project Management

While your Advisor and committee will provide theoretical and methodological guidance, you are the primary project manager. It is your responsibility to monitor your compliance with Institute deadlines, anticipate the two-week document review windows required by your committee, and proactively navigate the administrative requirements of the Graduate School.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class

Campus Resources for Students

In your time at Georgia Tech, you may find yourself in need of support. Below you will find some resources to support you both as a student and as a person.

Academic support

- Center for Academic Success <http://success.gatech.edu>
 - 1-to-1 tutoring <http://success.gatech.edu/1-1-tutoring>
 - Peer-Led Undergraduate Study (PLUS) <http://success.gatech.edu/tutoring/plus>
 - Academic coaching <http://success.gatech.edu/coaching>
- Residence Life's Learning Assistance Program <https://housing.gatech.edu/learning-assistance-program>
 - Drop-in tutoring for many 1000 level courses
- OMED: Educational Services (<http://omed.gatech.edu/programs/academic-support>)
 - Group study sessions and tutoring programs

- Communication Center (<http://www.communicationcenter.gatech.edu>)
 - Individualized help with writing and multimedia projects
- Academic advisors for your major <http://advising.gatech.edu/>

Personal Support

Georgia Tech Resources

- The Office of the Dean of Students: <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/services>; 404-894-6367; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor
 - You also may request assistance at https://gatech-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid383662?
- Counseling Center: <http://counseling.gatech.edu>; 404-894-2575; Smithgall Student Services Building 2nd floor
 - Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couples counseling, testing and assessment, referral services, and crisis intervention. Their website also includes links to state and national resources.
 - *Students in crisis may walk in during business hours (8am-5pm, Monday through Friday) or contact the counselor on call after hours at 404-894-2204.*
- Students' Temporary Assistance and Resources (STAR): <http://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/need-help>
 - Can assist with interview clothing, food, and housing needs.
- Stamps Health Services: <https://health.gatech.edu>; 404-894-1420
 - Primary care, pharmacy, women's health, psychiatry, immunization and allergy, health promotion, and nutrition
- Veteran's Resource Center: <http://veterans.gatech.edu/>; 404-385-2067
- Georgia Tech Police: 404-894-2500