

PSYC 4699 – Undergraduate Research (CRN 86277)

Fall 2026 | Section TH0

What is undergraduate research?

Broadly, undergraduate research is a research, scholarly, or creative project conducted by an undergraduate student under the guidance of a faculty mentor that contributes new knowledge and/or discoveries to the broader professional community.

Why is undergraduate research important?

Undergraduate research is a recognized high-impact practice and an important transformative learning experience for students.

Course Description

Students will participate in research in the Decision Processes Laboratory (DPL), focusing on behavioral experiments and cognitive modeling of decision-making under uncertainty.

Students will gain experience running human participant experiments, managing data, and contributing to computational modeling projects using tools such as R or Python.

Core Impacts of the Course

- Develop the ability to think scientifically about human behavior and decision-making
- Gain hands-on experience conducting behavioral experiments with human participants
- Build foundational skills in data analysis and computational modeling
- Understand how cognitive theories are formalized and tested using models
- Strengthen problem-solving, critical thinking, and research design skills
- Develop professional research habits including communication, collaboration, and time management
- Engage in the full research process from hypothesis generation to interpretation of results
- Apply ethical principles in the conduct of research

Grading Policy

- Research Participation & Effort – 40%
- Research Skill Development – 25%
- Professional Conduct – 15%
- Research Outputs – 20%