

SU PSYCHOLOGY: CHOOSING A RESEARCH METHODS OPTION

The psychology department offers students two options to satisfy the research methods requirement: (1) the Survey of Research Methods in Psychology course (without a lab) or (2) the Inquiry-Based Research Methods course (with a lab). To help students select the course that is most appropriate for them, differences are outlined below:

	Survey of Research Methods in Psychology (PSY 33-204)	Inquiry-Based Research Methods (PSY 33-214) & Lab (PSY 33-211) IBRM with Animals (PSY 33-224) & Lab (PSY 33-221)
Class	•Two 75-minute class meetings/week	•Two 75-minute class meetings/week
Lab	⊘	•Two 75-minute lab meetings/week (same instructor)
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Covers observational, correlational, and experimental design •Prepares students for upper level courses in psychology •Prepares students to read and evaluate empirical research in psychology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Covers observational, correlational, and experimental design •Prepares students for upper level courses in psychology •Prepares students to read and evaluate empirical research in psychology
Hands-on research experience	⊘	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Prepares students to design and conduct empirical research in psychology •Provides opportunity to conduct original research (1-2 projects)
Working with animals	⊘	•Provides opportunity to work hands-on with animal subjects (IBRM with animals option)
Statistical competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teaches statistical interpretation ⊘	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Teaches statistical interpretation •Teaches calculation using statistical software (e.g., SPSS)
Writing skills	•Introduces students to discipline specific writing (i.e., APA style)	•Involves extensive discipline specific writing (i.e., APA style)
Who should take it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Psychology minors •Majors pursuing non-psychology graduate programs (e.g., law school, social work), non-psychology careers, or careers that require only a BA/BS in psych •Students who like psychology but strongly dislike research, writing, and statistics (and won't pursue a graduate degree requiring research) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Psychology majors who might complete a research capstone (IBRM is required) •Students considering graduate school in psychology or neuroscience: most graduate school programs in psychology require research experience •Students pursuing careers working with animals (e.g., veterinary medicine, graduate school, animal training, neuroscience) •Students who are well organized and who enjoy research, statistics, and writing

CATALOG DESCRIPTIONS

- 33-204 Survey of Research Methods. This course introduces students to a variety of research methods in psychology, including experimental and non-experimental designs. Topics include literature review, hypothesis formation, psychological measurement, sampling, design, statistical analysis, ethics, and scientific writing in APA style. This course (with no lab) covers the basic methodological background necessary for upper-level psychology courses but does not involve project-based research. It is recommended for (a) psychology majors pursuing non-psychology careers or who prefer an internship capstone rather than a research capstone, (b) psychology minors, and (c) non-psychology majors preparing to take the MCAT. Contributes to Data Analytics and Data Science. Prerequisites: Psychology 33-104 and Mathematics 52-114. (Spring) (WA) (ScS)
- 33-214 Inquiry-Based Research Methods. This course gives students in-depth experience with the research methods used in psychology, including experimental and non-experimental designs. Topics include literature review, hypothesis formation, psychological measurement, sampling, statistical analysis, ethics, and scientific writing in APA style. This course (which includes a required 1-credit lab; 33-211) involves intense project-based original research, and serves as good preparation for later independent research (capstone research or graduate school). This course is recommended for (a) psychology majors who prefer a research capstone over an internship capstone, and (b) students considering applying to graduate school in psychology. Co-requisite: Concurrent registration in 33-211, with the same professor, is required. You must register for lecture and lab with matching section numbers (e.g. 33-214-01 & 33-211-01). Contributes to Data Analytics and Data Science. Prerequisites: Psychology 33-104 and Mathematics 52-114. (Fall, Spring) (WA) (ScS) Not appropriate for first-year students.
- 33-211 Lab for Inquiry-Based Research Methods. This 1-credit lab is designed to give students practical, hands-on experience in designing, conducting, analyzing, and writing up original research. This lab is required for Inquiry-Based Research Methods. Co-requisite: Concurrent registration in 33-214, with the same professor, is required. You must register for lecture and lab with matching section numbers (e.g. 33-214-01 & 33-211-01). (Fall, Spring) (ScS)
- 33-224 and 33-221 – SAME as above, except animals are studied as subjects instead of human participants