



PSY150/PSY250 **RESEARCH REQUIREMENT**

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Links and Dates

- Studies START: **Monday, September 12th**
- Research Requirement DUE: **Friday, December 9th**
- Psychology Research Area Email: **psychpool@csun.edu**
- **[Psychology Research Area Website](#)**



Overview

- **Purpose of the research requirement**

- *Gives students direct experience about psychological research*

- **Facts**

- *Studies are conducted by faculty, graduate students, and upper level psychology students*
- *If you are under the age of 18, you CANNOT participate in research and must complete an Alternative Research Assignment*
 - *More on this later in the presentation*
- *You MUST complete the research requirement to get a grade in your class*

Sona Systems

An online reservation system so you can keep track of your credits and your professors can also keep track of your credits

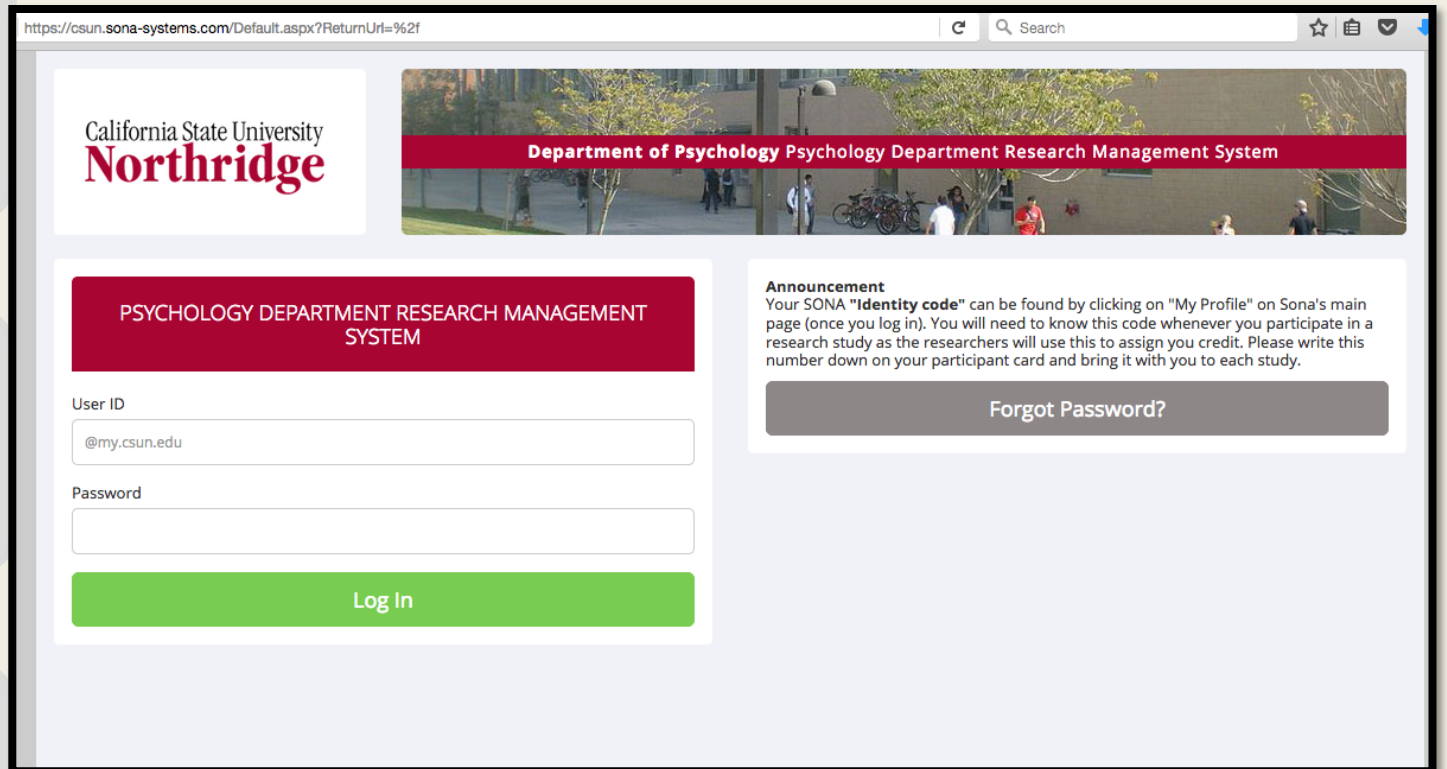
- Professors do have access to Sona to keep track of the progress students are making throughout the semester

How to access Sona?

- <https://csun.sona-systems.com/>

Sona login information IS different from your CSUN login information

- Login information will be sent to students by the beginning of the first week of classes

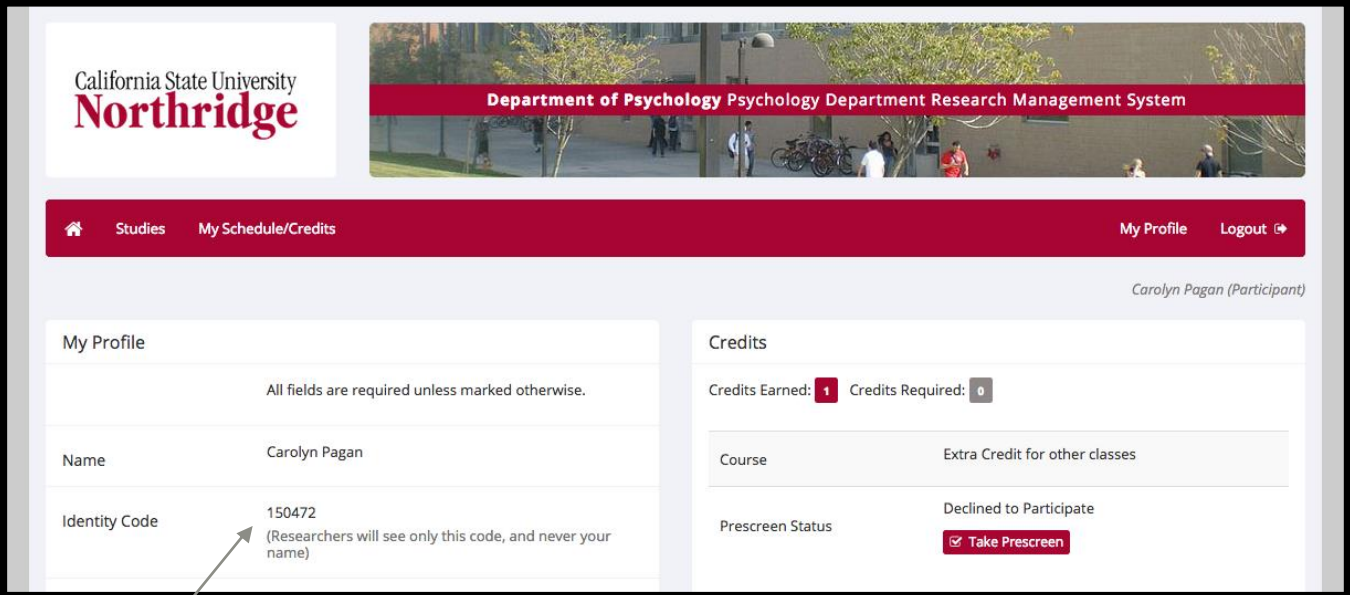


The screenshot shows the CSUN Sona Login Page. At the top left is the California State University Northridge logo. To the right is a banner for the Department of Psychology Psychology Department Research Management System. Below the banner is a login form with a red header that reads "PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM". The form includes a "User ID" field with the placeholder "@my.csun.edu", a "Password" field, and a green "Log In" button. To the right of the login form is an "Announcement" box with the text: "Your SONA 'Identity code' can be found by clicking on 'My Profile' on Sona's main page (once you log in). You will need to know this code whenever you participate in a research study as the researchers will use this to assign you credit. Please write this number down on your participant card and bring it with you to each study." Below the announcement is a "Forgot Password?" button.

CSUN Sona Login Page

Sona Systems

- When you first login to Sona you will be asked to complete the pre-screen questionnaire
 - Answer as many or all questions in order to be qualified for more studies
- Make sure to keep a record of your Sona ID
 - You will need this number for EVERY study you participate in



The screenshot shows the Sona Systems interface for a participant. At the top left is the California State University Northridge logo. To the right is a banner for the Department of Psychology Psychology Department Research Management System. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links for Studies, My Schedule/Credits, My Profile, and Logout. The user's name, Carolyn Pagan (Participant), is displayed in the top right. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'My Profile', contains a form with the following fields: Name (Carolyn Pagan), Identity Code (150472), and a note that researchers will see only this code. The right column, titled 'Credits', shows Credits Earned (1) and Credits Required (0). Below this is a section for Course (Extra Credit for other classes) and Prescreen Status (Declined to Participate) with a 'Take Prescreen' button.

Sona ID

Sona Systems

- Studies will automatically show up if they are open and you qualify for the study
- Make sure to read the details of each study before signing up
- If interested in a study, you would need to sign-up for a specific timeslot
 - *Timeslots are based on the times that researchers are available to run their studies*
- You can cancel your appointment time up to 12 hours in advance
- You can only participate in any given study once

California State University
Northridge

Department of Psychology Psychology Department Research Management System

Home Studies My Schedule/Credits My Profile Logout

Carolyn Pagan (Participant)

Study Sign-Up

[VIEW AVAILABLE STUDIES](#)

My Schedule & Credits

- View or cancel my study appointments
- ★ View studies I've participated in, and see if credit has been granted
- ★ View other Credits I've earned

My Profile

- Modify contact information

Credits Overview

1 Credits Earned 0 Credits Pending

Upcoming Appointments

No Upcoming Appointments

Credits

Requirement *

- PSY 150: 26
- PSY 250: 18

1 credit = total of 10 minutes

Easily receive 2 credits right away! How?

- *Fill out the pre-screen questionnaire and the pre-study questionnaire, once done, the **pre-study questionnaire** will automatically grant you 2 credits*

Hint

- *DO NOT skip the pre-screen and pre-study questionnaires!*
- *Try to answer all of the questions because this will help qualify you for certain studies*

*** Requirement is determined based on number of available studies and total students, and will be finalized the week before Sona opens**

Credit Allocation

- **Credits are assigned as follows:**
 - **Participated**
 - You participated in the study
 - You will receive the study credits either automatically (some online studies) OR once researcher manually grants credit
 - **Excused absence**
 - You reached out to the researcher BEFORE the start of the study to inform them you are unable to make it to the study with a valid reason
 - You will receive zero credits for the study
 - *Note: You can delete an appointment time for a research study you signed up for up to **12 hours** in advance*
 - **Non-excused absence**
 - You did not show up to the scheduled appointment time
 - You will be deducted the credits the study is worth
 - *Ex: You have 7 total credits, get an unexcused absence for a 2credit study (2 credit penalty) now have 5 total credits*
 - *Note: It is **very important** you show up to your scheduled appointments on time! If you are late and the study has already started this IS considered a non-excused absence*
- **Note:**
 - *If you show up for an appointment, but the researcher is not there, contact the research area at psychpool@csun.edu*

Credit Summary

Credits

Credits Earned: **1** Credits Pending: **0** Credits Requirements: **0**

Study Signups

NOTE: Researchers only know you by your identity code, which is **150472**, so please use that when corresponding with them.

Study	Time	Location	Credit Status	Comments	Cancel?
Experiment #000	January 16, 2017 9:00 AM - 9:10 AM	Sierra Hall 320	1 Credits granted on January 13, 2017.		
Credits: 1 Credits					

You may cancel a study sign-up up to 24 hours before the study is scheduled to occur. Any penalties accrued are deducted from your Credits earnings.

What to Expect

- Most studies are conducted in a small room or cubicle, some in large computer rooms*
- As of now (Spring 2022), most studies are conducted online
 - *Asynchronous: Surveys about self or opinions, comparing images, or short tasks, etc.*
 - *Synchronous: Meeting with researchers over Zoom to answer questions, etc.*
- Study types vary, some are short (10 min), and some are long (1 hour+)
- You have the choice to leave **ANY** study, simply inform the researcher
 - *You may not be able to receive credit though, may need to talk to the research area about it*
- **DO NOT** share information with other students about the studies you participate in because this may distort the data
- Only the researchers will have access to your responses, not even your professors will know the information you provided for a study
 - *Please be honest when attending studies*
- Researchers set the schedule for their studies and researchers grant the credits, **NOT** me
- Check studies on Sona often, studies are randomly being added to Sona
 - *New timeslots are also often added to existing studies*

Not Seeing Studies?

- Creating studies is a long process
 - 6 months – 2+ years to develop study
 - 2 months – 1+ years for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
- Studies are added by research teams throughout the semester
 - Not added by Research Area
 - Cannot control number of studies or access to them
 - Many studies added during last month of semester
- Tips:
 - Check Sona DAILY
 - Expect to see more studies toward the end of the semester
 - Plan ahead: Consider the **Alternative Research Assignment**

Alternative Research Assignment (ARA)

- Alternative to participating in Sona studies
 - *If under 18 or personal preference*
- Literature review essay describing how chosen journal articles relate to human subjects research and to a topic discussed in class
 - *PSY 150: 10 pages, 7 articles**
 - *PSY 250: 6 pages, 4 articles**
- Detailed instructions and lists of articles can be found on the Psychology Research Area website
- ARA is due the SAME DAY as Sona research credits



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why can't I log in to Sona?**
 - *Your Sona accounts may not been created yet! During the first three weeks of the semester.*
 - *You will receive your Sona log-in info in your CSUN email inbox, from csun-admin@sona-systems.net during the first three weeks of the semester.*
- **Will there be online studies this semester?**
 - *With the COVID-19 regulations in place now, most (but perhaps not all) Sona studies will be conducted online. The study detail page will indicate whether it is online or in person.*
- **What if I turn 18 in the middle of the semester?**
 - *Email psychpool@csun.edu to get your Sona log-in info, then check to see how many studies are currently available. If you still have over a month before the deadline, check Sona daily, and participate diligently, you might be able to fulfill the requirement through credits. Otherwise, the ARA is always an option. Every situation is different!*

Reminders

Fall 2022 Deadline: **Friday, December 9th**

Sona will open **Monday, September 12th**



QUESTIONS?