

POLICY ON RESEARCH COURSES

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This document establishes policies for Research in Psychology courses (PSYC 504 and PSYC 505).

Supervision and Evaluation

1. Students must be supervised by a Department of Psychology faculty member, adjunct faculty member, or a Red Deer College (RDC) Psychology faculty member. Co-supervision is permitted, but one person shall be designated the primary supervisor.
2. Unless approved by the Head of Psychology, the maximum number of research courses that can be supervised each academic year is two.
3. The second reader must be a faculty member, an adjunct faculty member, or otherwise hold an appointment at the University of Calgary. The second reader must be a faculty member in the Department of Psychology in any case where the supervisor is not a faculty member. The supervisor is responsible for arranging the second reader. The second reader must be named before the course can be approved.
4. Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows may assist with supervision duties, but they cannot be the primary supervisor nor may they serve as second readers.
5. The supervisor is expected to mentor the student through all aspects of the research project, including (where applicable) the research ethics application, research design, data collection, data analysis, and preparation of the written document (including feedback on written work).
6. The second reader must be involved in the evaluation process, including reading the student's document, providing written feedback to the student (e.g., using the Department's Honours Thesis and Research Course Feedback Form), and consulting with the supervisor regarding the student's final grade.
7. A student's final grade is determined by the supervisor and the second reader, and should include consideration of the quality of the written document, effort, independence, responsiveness to feedback, and the meeting of expectations and deadlines. In cases where the supervisor and second reader cannot agree on a final grade, the Undergraduate Program Director will be consulted and will adjudicate.

Course Requirements

1. These courses are expected to involve the collection and analysis of original data, or original analysis of previously collected data. Research courses must include a substantial written document similar to an Honours Thesis.