

CPSY 1970/1980: Project Proposal Form

If you are planning to enroll in CPSY 1970 or 1980 for a non-Honors independent study concentration credit in Cognitive Science, Cognitive Neuroscience, or Psychology, and your proposed sponsor does not have a primary or secondary appointment in the CPSY department, you must fill out this form for permission to register and to obtain credit. **Return the completed form to your concentration advisor before the deadline for class registration.**

Independent study projects must be pertinent and related to your concentration. Your concentration advisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) will review your proposal to ensure that it meets these criteria. If the proposal is approved, then the DUS will arrange for your sponsor to receive a course section number for CPSY 1970 or 1980.

Note: This form is for non-Honors independent study. If you are registering for CPSY 1980 as part of your Honors Thesis, please follow the instructions on the [Honors Website](#) for submitting an Honors application instead.

Your Name: _____

Your Concentration: _____

Are you requesting enrollment in CPSY 1970 or 1980? _____

Students pursuing independent reading courses (CPSY 1970) are expected to master and synthesize a body of literature, going beyond material covered in regular courses in both depth and critical evaluation. Students pursuing independent research courses (CPSY 1980) are expected to plan, design, and execute a research project. They are expected to develop a strong understanding of the relevant literature and to contribute meaningfully to data collection and analysis. All projects must have a clear intellectual relationship to the student's concentration in CPSY. Keep in mind that CPSY 1970 and 1980 require 180 hours of time commitment over the course of the semester.

Your faculty sponsor's name, rank, and department affiliation:

Only Brown faculty members with primary or secondary appointments in CPSY may sponsor independent study courses for CPSY concentration credit. Faculty members must be at a Professorial rank (Professor, Teaching Professor, Research Professor, or Professor of the Practice) at any level (assistant, associate, full). Clinical Professors, instructors, post-doctoral research associates, and adjunct faculty are not eligible to act as sponsors. Faculty at other institutions are not permitted to sponsor independent studies.

Describe the basis of and goals for your independent study project. What will you be doing and what outcome will you achieve? Detail how your proposed project relates to your concentration. Remember that all independent study courses require some form of written work. What do you expect to submit to fulfill this requirement?

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Sponsor section

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

Faculty sponsors are responsible for supervising the student to ensure that the student logs 180 hours of instructional time per semester. Regular meetings with the student are essential to discuss progress, with at least one face-to-face meeting per semester. Faculty sponsors should set specific benchmarks for progress, including grading criteria and deadlines for submission of written work. Faculty sponsors are responsible for obtaining funding for the project, for ensuring the project has received IRB or IACUC approval, for ensuring that the student has received necessary training (e.g., CITI, Laboratory Safety), and for ensuring students have access to research participants. IRB approval, IACUC approval, and training requirements must be complete before data collection begins.

What resources (including funding, materials, access to research participants) are available in your research group to support the student’s project? The CPSY department does not provide funds to support independent study projects.

Describe your mentoring plan for the student. How often will you meet with the student and in what format (individual or group meetings)? What other members of your group might participate in this project?

On what basis will the student's work be evaluated? Sponsors should convey in detail to the student clear expectations for grading and evaluation.

Proposed Sponsor's Signature: _____

Date: _____