

CPSY 1970/1980: Project Proposal Form for Non-Honors Research

If you wish to conduct non-Honors (i.e., one semester) Independent Research (CPSY 1970 or 1980) in Cognitive Science, Cognitive Neuroscience, or Psychology, and your proposed sponsor is not affiliated with the CPSY department, you must fill out this Project Proposal Form (PPP) to obtain permission.

Independent study projects must be pertinent and related to your CPSY concentration. Descriptions of the criteria can be found on the department website: <https://copsy.brown.edu/undergraduate-study/concentrations#course-guidelines>
Independent study proposals that duplicate ongoing independent or Honors research in other departments will not be approved.

Return the completed PPP to your concentration advisor for review, at least one week before the deadline for class registration. Your concentration advisor will review the proposal to determine if it meets departmental criteria. If the proposal is approved, then your concentration advisor will arrange for your sponsor to receive a course section for CPSY 1970 or 1980.

If you are planning to conduct Honors research (i.e., two semesters, culminating in a thesis), you must instead fill out the Honors application: <https://copsy.brown.edu/undergraduate-study/honors>

Your Name: _____

Your Concentration: _____

Are you requesting permission to enroll in CPSY 1970 or CPSY 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 your concentration. CPSY 1970 and 1980 both require 180 hours of time commitment over the course of the semester and the submission of written work (i.e., literature review or research paper).

The proposed sponsor's name and department affiliation:

Only Brown faculty members at a Professional rank (Professor, Teaching Professor, Research Professor, or Professor of the Practice) at any level (assistant, associate, full) may sponsor independent study courses for concentration credit. 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.

In the space below, describe the goals and methods of your proposed project. Detail how the project relates intellectually to your concentration. How will you fulfill the 180 hours of time commitment? What kind of written work do you expect to submit? Be aware that capstone papers or theses submitted to another department do not fulfill the requirement for written work.

Student signature: _____

Proposed sponsor's section:

Name: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____

All independent study projects must be pertinent to the student's concentration in CPSY. Briefly describe how your background and expertise can assist the student in meeting this criterion.

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?

What resources are available in your laboratory or research group to support the student's project? The CPSY department does not provide financial or other resources for independent study.

Independent study courses must involve 180 hours of instruction and submission of written work for the student to receive concentration credit. The written work cannot duplicate that used to also fulfill requirements in another department. How will the student's work effort be tracked? How will the student meet the requirement for written work? How will this work be evaluated? Sponsors should convey in detail to the student (preferably in writing) clear expectations for grading and evaluation.

Proposed Sponsor's Signature: _____

Date: _____