

Instructions for Students (CMST 1061, 2010, 1150, and 2060)

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research learning requirement is to help you to gain knowledge about the process by which scholars attempt to understand communication behavior. All students taking CMST 1061, 1150, 2010, and 2060 must complete a research learning requirement. **For each course in which a student is enrolled, he or she must complete 2 research credits.** You can fulfill your requirements by:

1. **Participating in research studies conducted in the Department of Communication Studies.** All studies that last between 0 and 30 minutes will count as one credit. Any study that lasts between 31 and 60 minutes will count as two credits. Each study will specify the number of credits a student can earn for completion. Surveys and experimental studies are conducted throughout the semester. These studies are held on campus or are administered through online survey software. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.
2. **Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate, meeting, or public speaking competition.** Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research learning requirement; thus, no credit will be given for a student attending an outside speaker or performance.
3. **Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies.** The number of units and requirements for those units will be set by the researcher and either accepted or rejected by the student.

The research learning requirement is worth 2% of your total grade; you will receive your 2% if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. **All research credits must be completed and allocated by the 11:55pm the Tuesday prior to the start of the concentrated study period** (Nov. 29, 2022, for fall semester; May 2, 2023, for spring semester). Credit will NOT appear in Moodle prior to this date.

ALL available options to earn credit are posted at <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>. At this website, you can request an account or use an account from previous semesters using your LSU SSO (Single Sign On) which requires users to login using their MyLSU credentials. Once you have secured an account, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses. **Please Note: Several LSU departments use the Sona System but ONLY CMST studies available through the Sona System for Communication Studies and Psychology can be used for credit in CMST classes.**

Watch this tutorial for using the system <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OnT2ZU6QQ>

Please be sure to CHOOSE this course AND instructor when you register or log in for this semester. If you do NOT choose correctly, your instructor will not see your credits. It is YOUR responsibility to choose the right course and instructor, so your credits are applied to your class. **Students taking multiple CMST courses with RPS requirements must earn 2 credit per class.**

You are encouraged to create an account during the first week of classes so that any problems that arise can be remedied before it is too late. You are also encouraged to complete your Research Participation EARLY. It is more difficult to schedule a study or activity later in the semester and studies will end BEFORE the final credits are due. Opportunities are typically available between the 4th and 13th weeks of the semester.

Please note that **various ways to fulfill your research learning requirement will appear on this bulletin board throughout the semester.** You are encouraged to check the system on a regular basis for current

credit options that fit your interests as well as your schedule. **Your instructor CANNOT announce Studies available in class, so it is your responsibility to check availability of studies.**

Failure to show up twice during one semester will result in your access to the system being restricted and you being unable to complete your research learning requirement. When you sign-up for a credit option, it is very important that you attend that option or cancel your sign up. Valid excuses for failing to cancel a sign up and missing a credit option are the same as those found in LSU Policy Statement 31.

Your instructor cannot see what credits you have earned until after the deadline, so your credits will NOT be in Moodle until after the deadline. However, YOU can see your credits anytime and you can check earned credits AND allocate to your class anytime. Please note, researchers will not assign credits to the system until the study time slots are completed.

For questions, contact the researcher (about the study) **or your instructor** (about problems with the system). They will contact the administrators. Our most common answer is, “the answer is in the instructions.”

FAQs

1. Why aren't any studies available?
 - a. Answers:
 - i. Before the third or fourth week of the semester: “It is too early in the semester for researchers to post studies. Keep checking.”
 - ii. The last two weeks of the semester: “The many studies that were available earlier have been closed. You should have checked sooner.”
 - iii. The moral: complete studies between the 4th and 11th weeks of the semester.
2. Why haven't my credits been posted yet?
 - a. Answer: The researcher has until the end of the study to post credits, which means they might not be posted until the last week of class. If you completed the studies, everything should be okay. Keep track of your studies (take screen shots of questionnaires you complete) and make sure you complete the studies.
3. The studies say I am too young to participate (I am under 18). How can I earn credit?
 - a. You should contact your instructor. Your instructor will give you a link (or multiple choices) to an actual survey. However, your responses will be deleted because you are not 18. After completing the survey, you should write a 1-page description of the study and your thoughts about it; give your essay to the instructor. You will earn 1 unit of credit for taking the survey and 1 unit of credit for writing the essay.