

Psychology Department Research Project Types (for course credit)

Registration

Registration for these courses is Consent of Instructor (COI) only. Information about how to secure a faculty advisor for these courses will be provided to majors in the Psychology Department. If you have questions, please contact your faculty advisor, the department office, or mark.saviano@coloradocollege.edu.

PY251 Psychological Investigations

Psychological Investigations is a research-based independent study with a faculty member, working on some aspect of their research or on a newly proposed project reflecting joint student-faculty interests. This course is designed to be flexible, allowing many different research activities, and providing the student access to research experiences before or during their senior year. Coursework is usually constrained to a single block.

PY451 Final Project (Thesis)

Final Project, like a thesis, is a structured start-to-finish research project resulting in a formal paper. Paper length is typically 20-30 pages of text, not including references, figures, or appendices, and is written in APA Style. Although the bulk of the coursework is completed in the registered block, typically the planning, execution of, and writing for the project will require some work preceding or extending beyond the block. This course is designed for seniors. Described below are three frameworks, or project types, for Final Project work.

Empirical Project

This type of project involves designing a methodology and collecting and analyzing data to address a theoretical question derived from the primary literature (e.g., professional journals).

Examples: *Journal of Experimental Psychology* articles

Literature Review

This type of project involves extensive review and synthesis of the primary literature to address a theoretical question relevant to the area. The project would address the findings, strengths, and limitations of the existing literature.

Examples: *Psychological Bulletin* articles

Directed Field Study

This type of project involves a practicum working approximately 50 onsite hours with a community service provider under the direct supervision of both a Colorado College faculty advisor and a community site supervisor. The resulting written paper usually takes the form of a literature review relating the practical context to the existing literature. Other paper forms (e.g., a grant proposal) may also be possible. Below are some examples of organizations and sites of previous projects.

In-patient neuro-rehabilitation	Inside Out Youth Services
Vocational rehabilitation with the mentally ill	Special Kids, Special Families
Behavioral treatment for children with autism	Advertising and marketing firms
TESSA center for families experiencing domestic violence	Non-profit advocacy organizations
Community and public health organizations	