

R-Point Frequently Asked Questions (Spring 2023)

What are R-Points?

For partial credit towards completion of Principles of Psychology 101 and 102, students are required to participate in research conducted in the psychology department. In exchange for participating in research studies, students earn “R-Points”.

How do I earn R-Points?

The first step towards earning R-Points is to create an online user account with Sona-Systems. The first time you log in to the system, you will be invited to participate in a voluntary, 45-minute **prescreening survey** in exchange for **2 R-Points**. Please do not start the survey unless you will have time to complete it in one sitting! Points will only be granted if you complete the entire survey in a single session.

Your participation in the survey is voluntary, and you may decline to complete it if you choose. If you do decline to participate when first signing in, you can still opt to take the prescreening survey later by clicking the “My Profile” button on your Sona account at any time. If you never take the prescreening survey, the number of studies you will be qualified to sign up for during the semester may be lower.

Over the course of the semester, you can earn your remaining R-Points by signing up for and participating in research studies. You will use your Sona-Systems account to schedule your research appointments. It is a good rule of thumb to check the website regularly.

How do I create my R-Points account?

To create your account, go to <http://rutgers.sona-systems.com>, click “Request Account”, and put in your information. **Please use your RUID as your User ID**. Finally, you should select the courses for which you are earning R-points. **If you do not link the correct courses / sections with your account, and assign your earned R-points correctly amongst these courses, you may ultimately receive a lower grade in one or more of your courses.** Selected courses may be changed at any time under the “My Profile” menu; earned R-points may be assigned to your selected courses under the “My Schedule / Credits” menu.

Using the Sona system allows you to sign up for studies, cancel signups, and track your R-Point progress. Each study listed shows you a brief summary detailing the nature of the study, the time it takes place and / or the time by which it must be completed, how many R-Points you will earn by participating, and the name and contact information of the researcher conducting the study.

What is an RUID? How do I find my RUID?

Your RUID is your 9-digit student identification number. It is NOT your social security number. Your RUID is listed on your RU-N student ID card. If you are an NJIT student, or for some reason you cannot locate your RUID, please write to Fahima Mohideen at RutgersRpoints@psychology.rutgers.edu

How many R-Points do I need to earn this semester?

For Spring 2023, all students are required to earn a total of 6 R-points over the course of the semester in which their section is being offered. The deadline is **May 1st, 2023, 5:00pm**. If you are enrolled in both Principles of Psychology 101 *and* 102 concurrently (i.e., during the same semester), you are only required to earn R-Points for one class (i.e., you must complete 6 R-points in total, not 12). **This is the only case in which “double-dipping” R-points is allowed.**

What if I forget my Sona-Systems password?

If you forget your password, simply go to <http://rutgers.sona-systems.com> and click on “Lost Your Password”. Your password will be e-mailed to you.

How can I change my Sona-Systems password?

To change your password, click on the “My Profile” menu. Therein you can follow the prompt to change your password for logging on to the website.

What if I need to cancel my research appointment?

If you need to cancel participation in a study for any reason, you can do so online through Sona-Systems up until the cancellation deadline listed on the study information page. If the deadline has passed you can cancel your appointment by contacting the **researcher** directly (not Fahima!), by e-mail or by telephone (if listed). Out of courtesy to our researchers, please make every effort to cancel your appointment prior to the time the study is set to commence.

What if the researcher cancels our appointment?

If you receive a cancellation e-mail **24 hours or more** before the scheduled appointment / participation deadline, no points are awarded to you. If the researcher cancels the appointment via e-mail with **less than 24 hours notice**, you are entitled to 1 R-Point, regardless of the number of points the study is worth. If the researcher cancels the appointment via e-mail with **less than 24 hours notice**, AND the appointment is the **final** one scheduled for that study (for multi-part studies), you are entitled to **all points** associated with that study. Please be sure to check e-mail the day of your appointment for cancellations.

What do I do if the researcher does not show for my appointment?

If the researcher has not cancelled and fails to show within 10 minutes of the designated time, or does not send you relevant instructions / materials for you to be able to complete the study, you are entitled to all of the R-Points for that study. Please contact RutgersRpoints@psychology.rutgers.edu if this happens to you.

What if I am under 18? Do I still have to complete my R-Point requirement?

Underage students **are not permitted by law** to take part in psychological research without parental consent. Therefore, students who are underage as of the **first day of class (“under 18 students”)** are **excluded** from the subject pool. However, such students are still required to complete the R-Point requirement by writing a total of **4** 1-page summaries of **peer-reviewed journal** articles in psychology. Additionally, “under 18 students” are required to sign an **experiment waiver form** and provide proof of age to the subject pool coordinator, their professor, or their graduate student TA. Experiment waiver forms are available by request via e-mail from the subject pool coordinator. **Please note that if you are an “under 18 student”, and you participate in research via Sona, you will receive NO R-POINTS.**

What can I do to earn R-Points if I do not wish to participate in research?

Adult students (18+) may also summarize research articles from **peer-reviewed journals** in psychology. Each summary you write is worth **1 R-point** (provided it is granted credit). Summaries should be typed, 1 page long, double-spaced, 1-inch margin, and 12pt or smaller font size. Papers must be submitted no later than 5:00pm on the final day of the semester in which your course is being offered (same deadline as for all other R-points related work). Details for how to write and submit these summaries appear **on the Sona-Systems website under the menu “FAQ”**, and in this semester’s **summary guide**.

For more information concerning the difference between peer-reviewed and popular literature, please go to http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/indexes/scholarly_articles.shtml

What happens if I do not complete my R-Point requirement?

If you fail to complete your R-Point requirement by the due date, your grade for the course will be temporarily dropped 1 letter grade (So, your hard-earned “A” will become a temporary “B”, or “TB” on your transcript). You can amend this reduction by completing your R-Point requirement the following semester. Your grade will be changed **only** after you inform your professor and Fahima (the R Points Coordinator; RutgersRpoints@psychology.rutgers.edu) of your completion of makeup points. If you fail to complete the requirement the following semester, the grade will become permanent.