Penn State Altoona Psychology Field Experience (PSYCH 295) Application (9/2022 revision)

This first section provides an overview of the field experience application procedure. The second and third sections provide, respectively, the application and a sample syllabus for the course.

What is it and how to get started

The Psychology Field Experience (PSYCH 295) is intended for students who are interested in getting a first exposure to a professional work setting related to Psychology. Students will assist a professional to gain insight and experience they will reflect on and relate to an academic focus. The experience is intended for students early in their degree progress, who may use the experience to clarify long-term interests. Thus, it’s really only appropriate for sophomore (or possibly junior) students.

The final page in this document provides details about the academic requirements of the course.

To get started, students must read this document carefully and complete the attached application in consultation with the desired faculty supervisor. Keep in mind that completing the application is not a guarantee that it will be accepted. It would be best to discuss your interest right away (i.e., before investing work in the application) with potential faculty supervisor, so that you might know that person’s availability and interest.

In completing the application, you might consult the student resources related to internships on the College’s webpage (http://www.altoona.psu.edu/internships/). You will be responsible for identifying possible field experience sites and inquiring about their willingness to have you. It is very important that you carefully choose your field experience site. Your goal should be to find a site that provides a meaningful experience that is consistent with your interests and career goals. As part of the supplemental application, you are directed to ask potential field experience site contacts to describe the anticipated activities, experiences, and skills you can expect. This information will be helpful in evaluating the merits of your application.

Prerequisites: Students must have earned at least a C in PSYCH 100 and either PSYCH 270 (for a clinical psychology field experience) or PSYCH 212 (for a developmental psychology field experience).

Credit Hours/Course Limits. PSYCH 295 is available only as a three credit course. Students are limited to taking one PSYCH 295 course in their academic career.

Timeline

You should begin preparations for the field experience **no later than the beginning of the regular semester preceding the anticipated field experience semester**. This means that if you want a spring semester field experience, you should begin preparations no later than the beginning of the previous fall semester.

Application Procedure: Interested students should first discuss their interests with Dr. Pinter, then complete the brief attached application and email it to Dr. Pinter **no later than the tenth week** of the regular semester preceding the anticipated field experience semester. So, for a fall capstone project, students should aim to submit an application by March 15th. For a spring capstone project, students should submit an application in that previous fall semester by October 15th. Opportunities are limited and will vary by semester. Submission of the application does not guarantee acceptance.

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Instructions: Type responses in the indicated blanks. Save the document using a file name modeled on “Jones.Field experience.22May13.” Email complete applications to your potential faculty supervisor no later than the tenth week of the semester preceding the anticipated field experience semester. Please send only the application (not the instruction or syllabus pages).

Name:

PSU email:

Semester standing:

GPA:

Desired semester for PSYCH 295?

PSYCH 100 grade: (Note a minimum grade of C is required)

PSYCH 212 grade (if relevant): (Note a minimum grade of C is required)

PSYCH 270 grade (if relevant): (Note a minimum grade of C is required)

Reason for applying for PSYCH 295: (In < 500 words describe your reason for applying for the field experience. You might discuss your career goals and interests as part of your response)

You should complete the following additional questions in consultation with the proposed internship site.

Proposed field experience site: (name and location)

Site contact information: (name, title, phone, email)

Proposed field experience activities: (This section should report a specific list of proposed activities with percentage estimates of the amount of time to be spent for each. The goal of this section is to understand what you will do on a day-to-day basis.)

Proposed skills/experiences: (This section should report a specific list of skills and experiences to be developed during the field experience. The goal is to understand what benefits you could expect from the experience.)

**Sample Syllabus**

**PSYCH 295: Three-Credit Field Experience for Student X (Semester YEAR)**

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**Course Description**: PSYCH 295 is intended to provide students with a first exposure to a professional work setting related to Psychology. Students will assist a professional to gain insight and experience they will reflect on and relate to an academic focus. The experience is intended only for sophomore or junior students.

**Prerequisites**: Students must have earned at least a C in PSYCH 100 and either PSYCH 270 (for a clinical psychology field experience) or PSYCH 212 (for a developmental psychology field experience).

**Credit Hours/Course Limits**. PSYCH 295 is available only as a three credit course. Students are limited to taking one PSYCH 295 course in their academic career.

**Course Requirements**: The central course requirement is the completion of 120 hours on site. In a 15-week semester, this means the student will be on site 8 hours /week. Depending on the nature of the experience, students may compress their required hours into a shorter time frame. Adequate performance in the completion of the required hours will be worth 50% of the final grade. Note that the site supervisor’s evaluation will play a large part in determining the adequacy of the site performance.

As part of the academic component of the course, students will complete a journal assignment in which they will describe and reflect on their experiences, particularly as they relate to a relevant academic focus. For instance, for one journal entry a student might describe a site experience and analyze it in terms of a concept learned in PSYCH 270. Students will also complete a summary assignment in which they “pull everything together” and evaluate what they’ve learned and how this experience will influence their academic/work future. The weekly journal assignments will be worth 30% of the final grade. The summary assignment will be worth 20% of the final grade.