



University of Illinois at Chicago  
Agreement to Participate in Research  
"Psychology Department Mass Testing"

**Why am I being asked?**

You are being asked to be a subject in a set of research studies concerned with personal attitudes, values, beliefs, and experiences being conducted by a team of researchers from the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. You have been asked to participate in the research because you are a student enrolled in Psychology 100, and as such are eligible to participate. Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the research.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision about whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University or with the Department of Psychology, nor will it affect your class standing or grades at UIC. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship.

**Why is this research being done?**

Psychological research is sometimes geared toward studying individuals who possess certain attitudes, values, beliefs, or other unique characteristics. In order to conduct such research in an expeditious manner, it is useful to determine ahead of time which potential participants have the target characteristic(s), and what the distribution of the target characteristic(s) is in the Psychology 100 student population. We do this by administering a packet of short paper-and-pencil questionnaires to students during class at the beginning of each semester. We call this process "Mass Testing." The questionnaires you are being asked to complete are those contained in packet that you have just received.

**What procedures are involved?**

If you agree to be in this research, we would ask you to complete these questionnaires during this class period. Some of the questionnaires might be paper based and some will be completed online. You should turn in any paper surveys before you leave. You will not be able to continue working on the online surveys after you leave.

Each academic year roughly 2,000 students participate in Mass Testing sessions conducted by the Department of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Psychology Department uses the SONA Systems subject pool management software. SONA essentially works as an online scheduling system that allows researchers to post experiments and students to sign up to participate in those experiments. SONA is a non-UIC data repository and management system (i.e., data is stored outside of UIC). When you registered to use SONA, you completed a short demographic questionnaire that asked for your name, UIC email address, instructor's name, date of birth, gender, race/ethnicity, handedness, and what languages you speak. Your name, email, and instructor's name are required to create a list of experiment credits for each instructor at the end of the semester. The remaining information was optional. The optional information enables the system to display research study sessions and professional training sessions that are most appropriate for each student (e.g., if a particular session is restricted to females only, then that session will be

displayed only to female students). For security purposes, SONA collects IP addresses, but IP addresses with NOT be shared with third parties. The registration information and experiment participation information will be removed from SONA and stored locally (at UIC) within two years from the end of the semester. The SONA system has been evaluated by the UIC IRB and information technology security representatives at UIC to ensure the SONA systems meets security standards necessary for storing FERPA data. Information transferred between UIC and SONA is encrypted during transmission. No protected health information will be collected by SONA.

### **What are the potential risks and discomforts?**

All of the questionnaires contained in the Mass Testing packet have been reviewed by UIC's Institutional Review Board and approved for use, and none of them involves more than "minimal risk," the lowest risk category for any research. This means that the risk to the student of participating is no greater than what is encountered in everyday life. Students under the age of 18 are not eligible to participate in research studies that involve more than minimal risk.

### **Are there benefits to taking part in the research?**

By participating in Mass Testing, you may be helping to advance the scientific study of human behavior and experience. You will also gain useful information that will help you better understand your Psychology 100 text and lectures, especially examples that draw on the Mass Testing procedure to illustrate how important psychological phenomena are studied.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

The only people who will know that you are a research subject participating in Mass Testing are the Department of Psychology PEC Coordinators, members of the research team whose questionnaires are contained in the packet, other students who participate in the same mass testing session, and your instructor and teaching assistants (if present). No information about you, or provided by you during the research, will be disclosed to others without your written permission, except: if necessary to protect your rights or welfare (for example, when the UIC Institutional Review Board monitors the research or consent process); if required by law; or if your responses indicate suicidal ideation (i.e., you are considering suicide). Mass Testing questionnaires are identified by your confidential Personal Identification Number (PIN, such as 1632). Thus, except for the limited conditions just described, researchers cannot identify you and your responses unless you qualify to participate in subsequent research, sign up to participate in the research, and then actually attend the experiment. There could be an exception in which you will be asked for your email address or phone number on one or more of the forms during mass testing. The purpose of requesting your email or phone number is so that a researcher can contact you if you qualify to participate in a specific study. Providing your email or phone number is completely optional.

If the results of the research are published or discussed at conferences, no information will be included that would reveal your identity. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

The questionnaires will be stored in locked file cabinets to prevent access by unauthorized personnel. Any identifying information that you provide on these questionnaires will be retained only until the end of the current semester, and will be used only to inform you later of any follow-up studies in which you may be eligible to participate.

### **Will I receive credit for my participation in this research?**

Yes, you will receive one Psychology Experience Credit (PEC) for participating in Mass Testing. Participating in Mass Testing does not obligate you to participate in any of the follow-up research studies to which these questionnaires are related. If you are eligible, you can choose to participate in them, but you are not required to do so. Further, if you are eligible to participate in any of the follow-up research

studies, and you do choose to participate, you will be appropriately informed about the nature and purpose of those follow-up studies before you actually participate in them, and you will earn additional PECs for that participation.

**What other options are there?**

If you wish, you can elect not to participate in Mass Testing. If you decide not to participate there are still many other ways you can earn one PEC to replace the one you would have earned by participating. These include (1) participating for one hour as a subject in some other IRB-approved research study conducted under the supervision of Psychology Department faculty, (2) writing two Bibliographic Synopses of published empirical research, and/or by (3) volunteering to be interviewed or tested in one or more training sessions conducted by advanced undergraduate or graduate students in psychology. These various options were described to you in the class handout entitled "The Psychology Experience Credit (PEC) Requirement for Psychology 100: Information for Students" distributed in class earlier this semester. If you did not receive this handout you may ask the course instructor to give you a copy.

**Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?**

You can choose whether or not to participate in Mass Testing. If you volunteer to participate, you may withdraw at any time without consequences of any kind. You may also refuse to answer any questions you don't want to answer and still remain in the study. Further, if you find particular questions or questionnaires to be objectionable, you may skip them. You should be aware, however, that skipping questions could limit your eligibility to participate in the specific follow-up research studies to which the skipped questions or questionnaires are related.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

The person who coordinates the Department of Psychology Mass Testing sessions is Dr. Gary Raney. If you have any questions now, you may raise your hand and ask one of the test administrators. If you have questions later, you may contact Dr. Raney by telephone at (312) 413-1314 or by email at pecolsus@uic.edu.

**What are my rights as a research subject?**

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may call the Office for Protection of Research Subjects at 312-996-1711.

**Remember:** Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with the University. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship. If you would like to have a copy of this form for your information and to keep for your records, you may pick one up from the front of the room as you leave class today.

**Signature of Subject**

I have read the above information. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this research.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name