

# SAMPLE | UCSD Psychology Undergraduate Research Assistant Common Application

Please note: This is a sample application. All of the content and questions are subject to change.

Thank you for your interest in doing research in the UC San Diego Psychology Department! Our labs strongly value the contributions of undergraduate students and the opportunity to provide a welcoming work environment that respects the full spectrum of human diversity in race, ethnicity, gender identity, age, socioeconomic status, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and religion.

This application will ask you about a broad array of skills and experiences, but it is by no means expected that you have all these skills. Faculty understand that, for many students, this will be their first lab experience and opportunity to start developing these skills. Please also make sure to include any relevant experiences you have outside of research, which, in addition to technical skills, could include things like babysitting, working, and volunteering in your community. We value a diverse range of skillsets, experiences, and perspectives in our labs.

An important purpose of this application is to streamline the process for both you and potential host labs, by reducing the number of times you have to email individual faculty inquiring about open positions. A second important purpose of this application is to better understand the full spectrum of interests and backgrounds that students are bringing to our labs, so that we can continue to improve the way that our department welcomes and trains students from all backgrounds.

Once you complete this application, your responses will be reviewed by Psychology faculty members who will reach out to you directly if they believe there is a potentially good match. After completing this application, you are still welcome (encouraged, even!) to contact faculty members directly via email to indicate your strong interest in joining their lab, and provide more detailed information, as applicable.

If you are not matched with a lab for next quarter, but are still interested in getting involved in research, we encourage you to re-apply to be matched in the following quarter! Because new applications will be solicited each quarter, we encourage you to type your responses in a separate Google Doc and then paste them into this form once you are ready to submit your full application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Psychology Student Affairs office via the Virtual Advising Center (<https://psychology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate->

[program/advising/index.html](#)).

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\* Required

1. Your Full Name (First Last) \*

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2. Your PID \*

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3. Undergraduate Year \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- 1st-year
- 2nd-year
- 3rd-year
- 4th-year
- 5th-year
- 6th-year and above

4. Expected graduation (quarter and year)

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5. To indicate which area(s) of research you are interested in, please check all that apply: "I am interested in how ..."

\*

*Check all that apply.*

- people think
- children develop
- to make computers think like people
- social interactions work
- the brain works
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The Psychology department is home to several research labs directed by faculty members, grouped by the following research areas: Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience, Cognitive, Developmental, Sensation & Perception and Social. To figure out which lab might be best for you, click the links below to learn more about what these labs work on!

Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience: <https://psychology.ucsd.edu/research-areas/cognitive-behavioral-neuroscience.html>

Cognitive Psychology: <https://psychology.ucsd.edu/research-areas/cognitive-psychology.html>

Developmental Psychology: <https://psychology.ucsd.edu/research-areas/developmental-psychology.html>

Sensation & Perception: <https://psychology.ucsd.edu/research-areas/sensation-perception.html>

Social Psychology: <https://psychology.ucsd.edu/research-areas/social-psychology.html>

6. After exploring the options above, which lab is your **FIRST CHOICE**? Each lab below is identified by the faculty member who directs it. Later in the application you will be given an opportunity to provide an open-ended response describing *\*why\** you are interested in specific labs. Please take the time to provide thoughtful responses in that section, as candidates who do so tend to be successfully matched with labs more often. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

This section will list the instructors who are accepting students in their lab that you will choose from

7. After exploring the options above, which lab is your **SECOND CHOICE**? (Optional)

*Mark only one oval.*

Same list of instructors who are accepting students in their lab that you will choose from

8. After exploring the options above, which lab is your **THIRD CHOICE**? (Optional)

*Mark only one oval.*

Same list of instructors who are accepting students in their lab that you will choose from

9. If you are interested in a lab other than the ones listed above, and you have specific lab(s) or faculty mentor(s) in mind, please list the faculty name(s) below. Labs outside of the Psychology Department are sometimes approved to sponsor PSYC 99/199 credit, but this requires approval from Student Affairs.
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10. Have you worked in a UCSD Psychology research lab before? If so, please select \*  
the last name of the faculty member you worked with most recently.

*Mark only one oval.*

List of instructors

11. Have you worked in a lab NOT in the UCSD Psychology department before? If so  
please provide the full name of the faculty director, department, and institution.

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12. Why are you interested in getting involved in research, in general? Why are you \*  
interested in the specific lab(s) listed above? You are encouraged to provide  
specific and concrete reasons where applicable, as this will help the lab(s) better  
understand your motivations, interests, and goals.

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13. What specific skills are you most interested in gaining through your research \*  
experience?

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14. Are you eligible for federal work-study support? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / Not sure.

15. What type(s) of position are you interested in? Note that 6 hours per week earns 2 \* units of PSYC 99/199 credit, and 12 hours per week earns 4 units of PSYC 99/199 credit.

*Check all that apply.*

- For credit (PSYC 99/199)
- For pay
- Volunteer

16. How many hours a week do you think you would be able to spend working on research? \*

*Check all that apply.*

- 1-2 hours per week
- 2-6 hours per week
- 6-12 hours per week
- 12-18 hours per week
- More than 18 hours per week

17. Supposing your first quarter in the lab goes well, how many quarters would you like to stay involved in research in the lab you join? Please note that expectations can vary from lab to lab and we are only interested in a rough estimate. \*

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18. What are the most relevant courses that you have taken, both within and outside of Psychology? If you have taken statistics (PSYC 60) and/or research methods (PSYC 70), please mention that here. \*

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19. Are you currently participating in the Psychology Honors track? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes

No

20. If you have a resumé or curriculum vitae (CV), please upload it as a PDF. While it is not required that you provide a resumé or CV, applicants who do so tend to be successfully matched with labs more often.

Files submitted:

21. Some research occurs on-campus and some research occurs off-campus, for example in parks or at museums. Assuming that you can either use public transportation or that transportation will be provided, which location(s) would you be interested in and able to go to in order to conduct research? (Optional)

*Check all that apply.*

On-campus lab (once it is safe to do so, compliant with any COVID-19 related guidelines)

Public areas within 1-2 miles of the UCSD campus

Public areas within 3-10 miles of the UCSD campus (including downtown San Diego)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

22. Please list any previous or current positions in the community or involvement in university organizations. (Optional)

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23. Please briefly describe any work experience not already mentioned in this application. If you have any experience working with children, please describe your experiences below. Please note that previous work experience is not a pre-requisite for getting involved in research. (Optional)

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24. How familiar are you with the following computer-based tools? Please note that it is common for many students to not yet have experience with any or all of these computer-based tools and familiarity with them is not a pre-requisite to getting involved in research. (Optional)

Mark only one oval per row.

|  | 1 - Totally unfamiliar | 2 - Have heard of it, but never used it | 3 - Have used it before, but not that familiar | 4 - Have used it before, I'm somewhat familiar | 5 - Have used it extensively, I'm very familiar |
|--|------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Word processing</b><br>(e.g., MS Word, Google Docs)                 | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>Spreadsheets</b><br>(e.g., MS Excel, Google Sheets)                 | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>Slide presentations</b><br>(e.g., MS Powerpoint, Google Slides)     | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>Statistics software</b><br>(e.g., SPSS, JMP)                        | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>Web programming</b><br>(e.g., HTML, JavaScript)                     | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>General programming</b><br>(e.g., Python, R, MATLAB, C, Java, etc.) | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |
| <b>Image or</b>  | <input type="radio"/>  | <input type="radio"/>                   | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                          | <input type="radio"/>                           |

**video editing**  
**(e.g.**  
**Photoshop,**  
**Premier)**

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25. Which languages other than English are you able to use to communicate with others (either in spoken conversation or in writing)? (Optional)

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26. What are your preferred pronouns? (Optional)

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27. Which, if any, of the following groups do you identify with? (Optional)

*Check all that apply.*

First-generation college student

Multiracial

Black / African-American

Hispanic

White / Caucasian

Middle Eastern

East Asian

South Asian

Asian-American

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

28. Is there any other information about your circumstances that would be helpful for your faculty mentor to know so that they can better support you? Please be assured that this information will not count against you, but rather will help your faculty mentor prepare accordingly (e.g., obtaining adequate support from the Office for Students with Disabilities). [Optional]

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Thank you for completing the Psychology Undergraduate Research Assistant Common Application!

Once you submit your application, it will be reviewed by faculty members and if there seems to be a good match you can expect to hear from a faculty member sometime before the start of the next quarter. We will get back in touch with you around the start of next quarter to check in with you about the process and help you with next steps. For instance, if you are not matched with a lab for next quarter, but are still interested in getting involved in research, we encourage you to re-apply for consideration the following quarter! Your advisors in the Student Affairs office in Psychology are also happy to share resources with you about how to maximize your chances of being successfully matched with a lab. Come by the Virtual Advising Center (<https://psychology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/advising/index.html>)!

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