

# Fall, 2007 York College Research Pool Review

William Ashton, Ph.D.  
Research Pool Coordinator

## Background

The research pool provides students in specified courses in Psychology, Social Work, Sociology and Anthropology an opportunity to take part in actual research studies in the discipline by making participation a class requirement. The research pool also provides faculty and advanced students in our departments with participants for research projects. The research pool does this by matching students who are seeking to participate in a research study with researchers who need participants for their studies.

The research pool is a valuable resource for York College students. Participation in a research study is the norm for college and university undergraduates across the country. Now, because of the research pool, our students have the same insights to our disciplines as graduates of other colleges.

However, the greatest advantage the research pool provides is to our faculty and student researchers. Finding people ready to take part in a research study is a daunting task for a researcher in the behavioral or social sciences. In order to facilitate the conduct of research, many schools have implemented a research pool. York's research pool has been an invaluable tool for almost every researcher at York in the behavioral or social sciences. Also, the existence of a research pool demonstrates institutional support for research when writing and securing external grant funding for research.

## Fall, 2007 Review

The fall of 2007 was the first semester of the use of the SONA on-line management system. The implementation of the SONA system allowed for easier use by students, better security of information and advanced features for the researchers. The purchase of SONA services are funded by a grant from the Student Tech Fee Use Committee.

## Students

-  834 students registered on SONA
-  3,033 points granted
-  193 points in penalties

### ***Frequency of point totals earned by students***

<u>Number of Points Earned</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
0	113
1	28
2	66
3	61
4	377
5	87
6	66
7	16

-  268 failed to achieve 4 points (required for class credit)
-  546 earned 4 or more credits (meeting class credit)
-  Average credits earned per student was 3.5

### Studies

-  4 in-person studies and 6 on-line studies
  - *Attachment style and sexual behavior*
  - *Stigma and depression*
  - *The effectiveness of advertisement characteristics*
  - *Stress among college students*
  - *Burnout among college students*
  - *Food security among urban residents*
  - *Effects of media images on Muslim-American's self-image*
-  4 York student ran two student-designed studies
-  1 External researcher (Rutgers graduate student and ex-York student)
-  1 Dummy (last minute/just for credit) study

### Courses

-  27 courses were involved

### ***Course participation***

<u>Course</u>	<u>Number of Students Participating in Pool</u>	<u>Total Number in Class</u>
Scwk 350/ Anth 220/ Soc 220 MN	21	n/a
Scwk350/ Anth 220/ Soc 220 TW	26	n/a
Anthropology 101 DE	48	54
Anthropology 101 V	10	35
Social work 300 SSV	2	16
Anthropology 101 WEB 1	3	18
Psychology 102 ZZ	41	52
Sociology 101 W	4	54
Sociology 101 E	2	55
Psychology102 W	84	130
Sociology 101 S	0	52
Sociology 101 Y	0	54
Social Work 360 V	22	22
Sociology 101 HK2	21	55
Anthropology 101 WEB 3	0	22
Psychology 102 C	120	138
Social Work 360 HK1	20	20
Scwk 350/ Anth 220/ Soc 220 SV	14	16
Psychology 102 B	90	n/a
Psychology 102 HK2	21	37
Sociology 101 C	36	138
Psychology 102 ESK	56	56
Psychology 102 HK1	116	137
Anthropology 101 S	53	51
Sociology 101 PQ	5	54
Social Work 101 V	18	51

### Feedback

All studies, before being considered for admission into the York College Research Pool, must pass ethical review by the York College IRB committee. The research pool program provides an additional layer of ethical protection by seeking feedback from participants after the study is completed.

After each in-person and on-line session, students are asked to evaluate the session. Students are questioned as to whether the study met IRB/ethic standards and as to their treatment by the researcher.

The feedback on all of the studies from the fall indicated that ethical standards were being appropriately implemented and that researchers were treating the participants with respect and courtesy.

### Representative Comments

The following are representative comments from the free response section of the evaluations:



It was interesting and helpful.



this experiment was infact very interesting



It was interesting and educative.



everything went okay.



It was interesting.



IT WAS WELL DIRECTED AND I THINK ITS A VERY COMMON ISSUE.



It was a good overall experience.



no comment



No comment. It was GREAT!



it was quick and easy. i enjoyed it.



Research questions were interesting.



it was a nice research.



It was a good experience.



was informative



No it was an interesting study and i look foward to reading the results



there were no problems during the experiment



The research went well, Thanx.



ught the whole entire experiment was quite interesting in overall.



It was great



i had fun



very nice



The researcher addressed all of my conserns and made me feel at ease answering such personal questions.



The questions were great!



I enjoyed the survey but it was a little too long



The survey was well put together



No the overall survey was understanding, although there seemed to be issues where i felt i was being asked the same questions more than once



Overall it was an ok experiment. Most of the questions, needed to be more clarified.



I have no probleim with the questionare.Ms.Manifold is nice and I think survey will help me and others in many ways.