

SONA SYSTEMS | Experiment Management System

Introduction

The Experiment Management System provides an easy method for you to sign up for studies, and track your progress throughout the term. Everything is done through the software's web-based interface, so you can access the system at any time, from any computer, with a standard web browser.

Getting Started

Your interaction with the system will be minimal and hopefully as painless as possible. After you log in to the system at <https://emich.sona-systems.com/Default.aspx>, you can view a list of available studies and any restrictions, sign up for studies that interest you, and track your progress throughout the semester. The system will track when you receive credits for a study, so you can view this online as well.

The system works best if you use any popular web browser that is less than 2 years old, like Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. It will work with other web browsers, and with older versions of popular web browsers, however the layout may not be as clean. No functionality will be lost by using an older web browser. The software will work if you are using a screen reader or other tools for those hard of hearing or sight.

This documentation assumes you have a basic knowledge of how to use the web. On this system, it is not necessary to use the Back button. You can always use the toolbar on the top of every screen to navigate anywhere on the site.

Request an Account

Your login information will be emailed to you as soon as you request the account, so you may login immediately. You will need to check your email for specific login instructions. If you have junk mail (spam) filters configured for your email, please configure the filters to accept email from emich-sona@sona-systems.com, as emails from the system will often be sent from that address.

This form should only be used by participants. Researchers will have their accounts created for them automatically.

You must enter a User ID that maps to your valid @emich.edu email address. It is not necessary to type in @emich.edu when entering your User ID.

Account Information

First Name

Last Name

User ID @emich.edu

User ID (re-enter for verification) @emich.edu

Telephone (optional)

Courses: PSY 101 (Spring) PSY 102 (Fall)
2012 Fall PSY 101 Lab (Hawley, Brendan CHN 11246)
2012 Fall PSY 101 Lab (Lavy, Samantha CHN 16874)
(Hold the Ctrl or Apple key and click for multiple courses)

Email questions to sjeffer2@emich.edu
Copyright © 1997-2012 Sona Systems Ltd.
(1:54 PM)

Figure 1: Requesting an Account

Welcome to the Eastern Michigan University Psychology Research Sign-Up System

User ID: @emich.edu

Password:

Email questions to sjeffer2@emich.edu
Copyright © 1997-2012 Sona Systems Ltd.
(1:48 PM)

Figure 2: Login Page

Request an Account

You will see a link to request an account on the front page of the system site at https://emich.sona-systems.com/student_new_user.aspx. You will be required to provide some very basic information and must use your EMU username. You will receive an email notification with your login information and instructions shortly after requesting your account. You will be assigned a password, which you can change after your first login. In many cases, you may also provide an alternate email address (after your first login). The login email will come from the administrator's email address (listed on the request account page), so be sure to configure your junk mail filters to allow email from that address. If you did not receive your login information, check your email program's junk mail folder before contacting the administrator. The most common reason for not receiving login information is that an email program misclassified the email as junk mail.

Logging In

Once you have your login information, go to the front page of the site and enter your user ID and password to login. Your login (also known as a session) will expire after a certain period of inactivity, usually 20 minutes. This is done for security purposes. If this happens, you can always log in again. When you are done using the system, it is better to explicitly log out, to prevent any problems that may arise if someone uses your computer before the session expires. This is especially important if you are using a public computer lab.



Figure 3: Main Menu

logged out. It is always a good security measure to close all your browser windows as well, especially if you are using a computer that is shared by others.

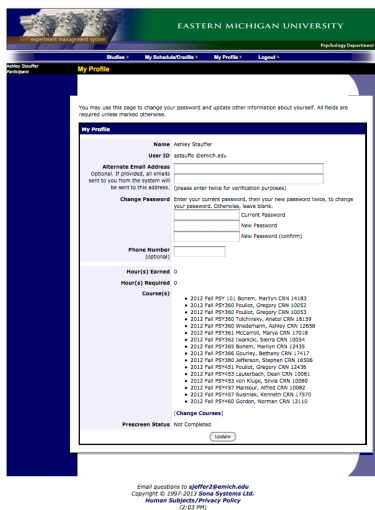


Figure 4: Updating Your Profile

for their study, in the event they need to contact you. You have two choices for your email address. When you update your profile, you will see a box where you may provide an alternate email address. If you provide such an address (this could be a Gmail account, for instance), this is the address where any notifications will be sent, and this is also the address that will be displayed to researchers.

Studies

With the system, you may view studies and sign up for those that interest you and where you meet any special eligibility restrictions. You may cancel your sign-up through the system as well. You may see some studies that are online studies. You should read the details of these studies closely, but generally you may participate in them online. It is usually assumed you will participate in the study shortly after you sign up for it, though you have until the Participation Deadline Date to participate.

You will see the Main Menu after you login the system. (see Figure 3)

Retrieving a Lost Password

If you have forgotten or do not have your password, you may choose to have your password emailed to you. You will see an option on the front login page to request your login. Your password will be emailed after you submit the form, and should arrive in your email box momentarily. If you provided an alternate email address it will be sent there.

Logging Out

When you are done using the system, choose Log Out from the toolbar on the left side to log out. You are now

Updating your Profile

If you would like to change your password or other information about yourself, choose My Profile from the top toolbar. If you would like to change your password, type your new password (twice, for confirmation) in the provided boxes. If you would not like to change your password, simply leave these boxes empty. If you change your password, please be sure to select a password you do not use on any other systems or websites. This is good computing practice, and especially important as in some cases, your password may be sent over email.

Email Address Options

There are certain events in the system which will cause an email notification to be sent to you. Most often, these are notifications that you have received credit for a study, or a confirmation that you have signed up for a study. Your email address is also displayed to the researcher when they view who has signed up



Figure 5: Viewing Studies

Viewing Studies

To view a list of studies, click on Studies from top toolbar. You will see a list of studies. A brief description of each study will be listed, as well as any special requirements that may restrict your eligibility to participate in the study.

Studies that currently have available participation times (timeslots) will have “TIMESLOTS AVAILABLE” listed next to the name of the study. If no studies have available timeslots, you may want to logon to the system a few days later to see if new timeslots have been added. You may also select a specific date to view studies with available timeslots on that date.

Two-Part Studies

Some studies are two-part studies, where you must sign up for both parts of the study at once, and the two parts must be scheduled a certain number of days apart. These studies will be clearly marked.

Online Survey Studies

Some studies may be online survey studies that are administered in the system. If you sign up for one of these studies, you will be taken immediately to the survey. As soon as you complete the survey, you will receive credit. You may withdraw from the survey at any time, by clicking the Withdraw button on the top right corner of the screen. When you withdraw, you have an option to withdraw without the chance to receive credit, or with the chance to receive credit. The difference is that if you withdraw without the chance to receive credit, then your sign-up will be completely deleted from the system. This is useful if you simply changed your mind about participating in the survey, but might like to participate in it again at a later time.

If you choose to withdraw with the option to receive credit, then your sign-up will be logged and the researcher will be notified of the withdrawal, but you will not be granted credit immediately. The researcher may then choose to grant credit to you for your participation in the study. If this is done, you will not have the opportunity to participate in this study again (because you may not participate or receive credit for the same online survey study more than once). With this withdrawal option, you are not obligated to provide any explanation of why you are choosing to withdraw, but you may provide an explanation if you like, and this information will be sent to the researcher when they are notified of your withdrawal. With either withdrawal option, all the survey responses you provided are permanently deleted at the time you withdraw.



Figure 6: Study Information

Signing Up for Studies

To sign up to participate in a study, find the study you would like to participate in (see Viewing Studies in this documentation). Click on the study name for more information. You will see a list of any special restrictions or eligibility requirements, as well as a contact person if you have questions about the study. In most cases, it is preferred to contact the person listed as the researcher if you have specific questions.

Some restrictions are automatically enforced by the system. If the study has certain pre-requisites or disqualifiers (studies you must not have participated in to participate in this study), those will be listed, as well as a note about whether you meet those eligibility requirements. If you have signed up for a study with another study listed as a disqualifier study, then you

will be prevented from signing up for the other study, since it is a disqualifier for a study you are currently signed up for. The study may have other restrictions listed as Eligibility Requirements. An example of an eligibility requirement is “Left-handed people only.” If listed, then the system does not enforce this restriction, but you should only sign up for the study if you meet this restriction. If you sign up for the study and you do not meet the restrictions, you will likely not receive credit for the study, and could face a penalty. If the study is not an online study, then the sign-up and cancellation deadlines for the study will be listed, and those are based on the date of each timeslot.

Some studies require a special password (known as an Invitation Code) to sign up. If this is the case, it will be noted. The researcher should have given you this invitation code. You will need to enter the invitation code just before you click the Sign Up button to sign up for a timeslot.

You may only sign up for a timeslot up until a certain time before that timeslot is scheduled to occur. The system will not show a Sign Up button for timeslots where it is too late to sign up. If you sign up for a timeslot and you already have another signup in the system that conflicts with that appointment time, the system will warn you of the scheduling conflict (though it will not prevent the sign-up).

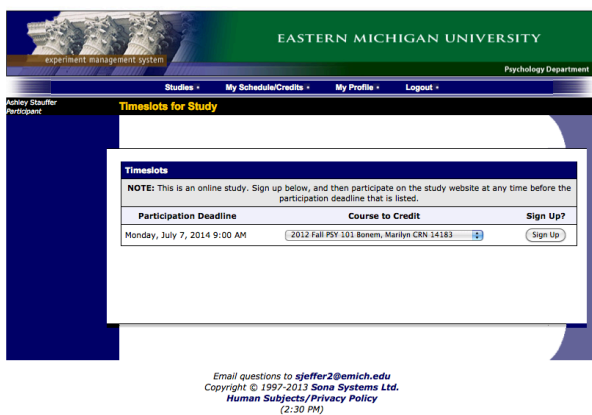


Figure 7: Study Timeslots

Canceling a Sign-Up

If you need to cancel a timeslot you have signed up for, you can do this from the My Schedule and Credits page. Choose the My Schedule/Credits option from top toolbar.

You will see listed all the studies you have signed up for, as well as those you have completed (see the Tracking Your Progress section of this documentation for more information).

Studies you have signed up for that you are allowed to cancel will have a Cancel button next to them. There is a time limit before the study is to occur, when it is too late to cancel. This restriction may be listed at the bottom of the page, or can be found by clicking on the study name and viewing the study details.



Figure 8: Sign-Up Cancellation

Timeslots

Once you have determined you meet all the requirements, click on View Timeslots for This Study and you will see a list of available timeslots. Choose a timeslot that is convenient for you, and click Sign Up.

After you click Sign Up, you will see information displayed confirming the time and location of the study you plan to participate in. You may receive an email confirmation as well, depending on how your system is configured. You are now signed up for the study. To cancel your sign-up, see Canceling a Sign-Up in this documentation.

Once you click Cancel to cancel your sign-up, you will see a confirmation page (see Figure 8). You will also be warned if your cancellation might affect your ability to participate in other studies you have signed up for, due to pre-requisite restrictions. If the cancellation will affect your ability to participate in another study you are signed up for, it is your responsibility to deal with this issue (usually by canceling the depending study as well).

Click Yes to cancel your sign-up, and the sign-up will be Cancelled immediately. If you cancel the first part of a two-part study, the second part will also be cancelled. If you cancel the second part of a two-part study, the first part will not be cancelled, but you will need to

ask the researcher to sign you up for the second part again, if you would like to participate in it at a later date.

The screenshot displays the 'My Schedule and Credits' page for a user at Eastern Michigan University. The page is divided into several sections:

- Credit Information:** Shows 'Overall Hour(s) Earned' and 'Overall Hour(s) Requirements', both currently at 0.
- Study Signups:** A table with columns: Study, Time, Location, Credit Status, Course, Comments, and Cancel? It lists one study: 'Video Games and Cognitive Influences Part 1 (Online Study) [0.5 Hour(s)]' on July 7, 2014, at 9:00 AM, Online, with a credit status of 'Awaiting action from researcher'. The course is '2012 Fall PSY 101 Bonem, Marilyn CRN 14183'.
- Hour(s) Earned Per Course:** A table with columns: Course and Hour(s) Earned. It shows '2012 Fall PSY 101 Bonem, Marilyn CRN 14183' with 0 hours earned.

At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information: 'Email questions to ajeffler2@emich.edu', 'Copyright © 1997-2013 Sona Systems Ltd.', and 'Human Subjects/Privacy Policy (2-23-09)'.

Figure 9: Tracking Your Progress

Tracking your Progress

You may track your progress at any time by choosing the My Schedule/Credits option from the top toolbar. When you view this page, you will see at the top a list of the number of credits you are required to earn, and how many you have earned so far. You may also have an option to view how many credits you have earned for each course. Below that, if you have signed up for any studies, those are listed as well. In the list of studies, you will see information about your credit status.

If you failed to appear for a study, it is possible you were assessed a penalty. That will be displayed in your progress, and the penalty (if assessed) will either increase the number of credits you must earn, or be deducted from your current credit earnings, depending on how the system is configured. It is possible you might end up with a negative value for the number of credits you have earned. Next to each credit or

penalty, you can also see any comments the researcher left regarding the study and your credit for it. In cases where the study was set up for monetary compensation and not credits, your participation will be noted as "participated." This is done to ensure your eligibility for any studies where the study you just completed is a pre-requisite study. Non-study credit is also listed, when applicable. Non-study credit is usually granted for some other special situation. It is possible that older records of your participation are in the system, but not displayed. If that is the case, you'll see an option to view the older records as well.

Reassigning Credits

If you belong to multiple courses, you may reassign a credit from one course to another. To do this, simply use the Reassign link that appears when you view your progress. The link appears under the course entry for each item in your progress listing. You may not split a credit between two courses, for example by assigning 2 credits of a 3-credit study to one course, and 1 credit from that study to another course.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Immediately after I login, as soon as I click on any menu option, I am taken back to the login page and I see a message that my authentication has expired. What does this mean?

Your web browser is not properly configured to accept cookies. You should turn on cookies in your web browser, use a different web browser (for example, try Firefox if you are currently using Internet Explorer), or try a different computer. Usually the computers in university computer labs are configured correctly.

2. I participated in a study, but I have yet to receive credit. How do I receive credit?

The researcher must grant you credit. This is usually done shortly after your participation. If it has been some time and you have still not received credit, contact the researcher.

3. I wrote a paper instead of participating in studies. How do I know I have completed my requirements?

Ask your professor to verify you fulfilled all your research credits for the course.

4. I noticed that with some studies, I can sign up for them again even if I participated before, while others don't allow for this. Why is this?

Researchers can choose if their studies allow you to participate more than once. Not all studies allow you to participate more than once.