

Dear Parent,

As part of the course experience in General Psychology (PSY 001), students are required to participate in 4 research studies, typically conducted by faculty and students in the psychology department at Westmont College. There are a number of reasons for this requirement:

- To participate in a research study can contribute to students' understanding of scientific methods, psychological phenomena, and the academic discipline of psychology.
- Participation helps upper-division students and faculty complete research projects and furthers the field's understanding of human behavior.

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews all psychological studies at Westmont for ethical methodology. In the case of student researchers, a Westmont professor supervises all projects. In some studies, the chance of being exposed to uncomfortable situations is greater than what might occur in everyday life. Some examples of this type of situation might be listening to loud noises, embarrassment about one's performance or attitudes, or wearing recording electrodes for physiological measures.

Student participants always have the choice to stop participating in a study at any time without penalty. Their recorded responses are confidential, and any reports that include those responses will not identify you or your child.

If a student does not wish to participate in research studies, an alternative assignment will be completed.

On behalf of the psychology department, I am requesting permission for your child, who self-identified as a minor, to participate in IRB-approved research studies.

If you give your permission, your child will be allowed to participate in any IRB-approved research projects at Westmont that are being carried out during the semester during which he or she is enrolled in PSY 001. Your child will be asked for his or her assent beforehand. If you do not give permission, your child will not participate in these research studies, and will complete an alternate assignment.

If you have any questions or concerns about this course requirement or would like to withdraw consent for your child to participate in research studies, please contact me via email at [rsee@westmont.edu](mailto:rsee@westmont.edu).

Sincerely,

Ronald E. See, Ph.D., Chair

## Informed Consent for Minor Child

I give my permission for my child, \_\_\_\_\_, who is a minor, to participate in \_\_\_\_\_ (provide legal name of child)

psychological research studies at Westmont College during the Fall Spring, 20\_\_\_\_ semester. (circle one)

I understand that:

1. my child will be asked for his or her assent for each study in which he or she participates and may complete an alternative assignment instead of participating.
2. my child may stop participating in a study at any time with no penalty and that I may withdraw my consent for my child to participate at any time with no penalty.
3. responses recorded during the study will be kept confidential and any reports using these responses will protect my and my child's right to privacy.

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date