

What is COGS 161?

This is a “research experience” which means that you assist a faculty member with a research project of theirs. Students enrolled in 161 are often referred to as “research assistants” or “RAs” for the project.

How do I look for a section of COGS 161 to enroll in?

There are several avenues:

1. Consult the list of [Cognitive Science program faculty and other faculty with related research interests](#). Click on names to read about their research activities, and then talk to or email someone whose research interests you.
2. If you’ve enjoyed the content of a particular Cog Sci course, you can talk to the professor to see if they are doing research in that area.
3. The Psychology Department maintains a list of research opportunities with Psychology faculty. You can email the [Psychology Department](#) (scroll down for the staff links at the bottom) and ask for the list. (Only projects in the domain of Cog Sci will count for COGS 161 - look for ones in cognitive psychology, cognitive development, and social cognition.)

How do I approach a faculty member about this?

Tell them something about yourself (such as your major, related courses you may have taken, why their area interests you) and ask if they are taking COGS 161 students for the coming semester.

It is best to contact one person at a time and see what response you get. If you contact several faculty and get several “Yes” answers, you’ll have to back out of all but one, and that won’t make you look good.

Once you get a Yes, you will probably want to follow up with another email or a meeting to find out more about their current projects and what they would want you to do.

How many credits is it worth?

COGS 161 is variable credit, 1-3. You will discuss how many credits to choose with the faculty member. For each credit, about 3-4 hours of effort per week are expected.

When you register, you select the number of credits from a drop-down menu in Banner.

What if I want to continue with the project? Can I do COGS 161 more than once?

Yes, COGS 161 may be repeated for credit. If you do COGS 161 a few semesters and begin to take on more responsibilities for the project, you can enroll in COGS 361 "Independent Research" instead.