

Marketing Research Participation for BUAD 307

Note that this handout amends your syllabus regarding the
Market Research Participation

- You can get credit for the Market Research part of your grade in two ways. You can
(1) participate as a respondent in two research sessions sponsored by Marketing Department faculty or
(2) you can write a short research paper.
- **If you choose (1)** you will have to register online at <http://marshall-mkt.sona-systems.com> . Detailed instructions on how to sign up and participate are provided as part of this handout.
- Each market research session will not last more than 60 minutes.
- Different studies covering different marketing topics will occur throughout the semester. Students may select the session that fits their schedule.
- Available times and dates will be posted on the web page.
- Students will need to cancel their seats in session 24 hours prior to the study. You will not be able to sign up for another slot in that study unless you cancel (see handout).
- **If you choose (2)** please contact your instructor regarding details regarding the research paper, such as topic and due date. Note you will have to choose (2) if you are not yet 18 years old.

There are 3 EASY STEPS to participate in research sessions:

1. Register on the Experimentrak research website.
2. Complete the Prerequisite survey on that website.
3. Over the course of the semester, various sessions will be posted to the website and available for you to sign up. You will need to register for, and complete (!), TWO sessions to get full credit.

This handout will explain to you how you can participate in a marketing research session to fulfill your research requirement. Remember, participating in research sessions is *voluntary*. You are *not* required to participate. You can choose instead to fulfill your research requirement by writing a short research paper. Please ask your instructor if you have any questions.

Please keep this handout as a reference throughout the semester since it answers most questions regarding the registration, sign-up and participation in Marketing Research sessions.

1. Register on the Marketing research website

Go to <http://marshall-mkt.sona-systems.com>

Note: there is also a marshall-ob site, for BUAD 304. Please be sure to use the Marketing site! If you are in both classes, you will need to create an account on each one.

The first time you are at this site, please request an account by clicking on the “Request an account” line at the bottom left corner of the screen



You will be directed to this screen.

Request an Account

Using this form, you may request a participant account on the system. 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 configure for your email, please configure the filters to accept email from marshall-mkt-admin@sona-systems.net, as emails from the system will often be sent from that address.

To protect your privacy, you will only be identified to researchers with a unique numeric code that the system will assign, not by your name. 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 @usc.edu email address. It is not necessary to type in "@usc.edu" when entering your User ID.

All fields are required unless marked otherwise.

Account Information	
First Name	<input type="text" value="Tommy"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Trojan"/>
User ID	<input type="text" value="ttrojan"/> @usc.edu
User ID (re-enter for verification)	<input type="text" value="ttrojan"/> @usc.edu
Telephone (optional)	<input type="text"/>
Course	<input type="text" value="- Select a Course -"/>
<input type="button" value="Request Account"/>	

(Your request may take a moment to process. Please wait before clicking the Request Account button.)

- Prof. Kalb
- Prof. Kovacevich
- Prof. Niraj
- Prof. Perner
- Prof. Towns



Note that you can **ONLY** register with your usc.edu account (e.g. use ttrojan as your User ID if your USC email is ttrojan@usc.edu).

Do not use your numeric student ID!

DO NOT use google; yahoo; hotmail; or any other email account other than usc.edu.

Your usc.edu email address will serve as your username.



2. Check your usc.edu account for confirmation email with your password.

You will receive an email from USC with your password. You can reset this password once you logged into the web page to something you will remember.

If you don't receive an email within an hour this is probably because you did not use your usc.edu account and/or used a numeric ID. In that case, please re-do the registration process.

3. Complete the prerequisite information on the website.

Before you can sign up for any sessions you will have to complete some initial demographic information. Once you log into the system for the first time, the screen asking you for this demographic information will pop right up.

4. Sign up and complete two sessions.

Studies will be posted on a rolling, weekly basis.

You will receive an email when a new study is posted. **Only those registered in the system will receive this email notification!** However, you do not have to wait for these emails! You can always check for open research sessions by logging onto the web page. Sessions fill up quickly!

Don't wait until the end of the semester to sign up for sessions!! The end of the semester is the busiest time for everybody and you will be glad you got your research requirement out of the way early. Also, waiting to the last minute most likely will leave you scramble to find a slot that fits your schedule. So plan ahead!!!

Sign-Up

When you sign up for a session slot you will commit to a specific date, time, and location. Make sure your scheduled session does not interfere with your classes and that you can arrive at the specified location on time. It is your responsibility to know where to be and when to be there! **Sessions will start on time and no latecomers will be admitted.** If you are late you will need to reschedule for a later session, which may no longer be available. Keep in mind that if you sign up for a specific slot and you do not show up for that study, you take away the opportunity to participate from one of your classmates who could have made it in time. So please be conscientious!

You should only sign up if you are sure you can attend the session. However, life happens and if you cannot make it to the session, you can cancel up to 24 hours in advance using the website. Note that you cannot sign up for another slot of the same study unless you cancel your previously assigned slot.

You will not need a receipt for your attendance; the computer system will track this automatically. You can check whether you got credit by logging on to the web site. Please allow at least 2 days after the completion of all sessions for your credit to post. If you have not received credit, please contact the researcher listed on the study description page.

<p>When signing up for a study, write down your SYS ID (check underneath the USC logo or in the email you receive) and bring that number each time you come to participate in a study.</p>

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I've registered but can't sign on to the site.

- It is most likely that you did not register using your USC email account (see above)? Try registering again using your USC email ID as your ID.
- If you think you forgot your password click on the "Lost your password?" link on the homepage and your password will be sent to the email account you use to log in.

2. I check the website but can't find an experiment.

- Have you completed the prescreening survey yet? You need to do so to register for experiments.
- Experiments are posted approximately once every week. You will receive an email once new studies are posted. Try back again in a few days.
Sessions are made available to you as they are organized – your professor doesn't have any control over when sessions will be available or how many there might be.

3. I never get emails announcing new studies!!!!

Only registered users will receive email announcements. So, register asap!

4. What are these studies about?

Studies may cover a wide range of topics related to advertising, service experiences, brand perceptions, and many more. These studies do not require any specific knowledge about marketing. The researchers are only interested in your honest responses as a consumer! The marketing faculty at USC is one of the most research active groups in the country and your participation in these research sessions greatly helps promote the reputation of the Marshall School as major contributor to marketing knowledge.

5. Where do marketing research sessions meet?

All sessions will be conducted at USC, but the exact location for any given session varies. When you sign up for a study, the location where the study will be conducted will be clearly specified.

6. Do I need to bring anything when I participate in a study?

You need to know your system ID (in the reminder email you will receive). You should be sure to have a pen or pencil with you, everything else you might need will be provided for you.

7. What if I cannot make it to a session?

You can cancel your participation up to 24 hours in advance using the web site.

8. I am under 18. Why can't I participate in sessions?

If you are under 18, we would need to have your parents' consent for each specific study in which you participated. It is difficult and inconvenient for you, in particular, to be sure that you and your parents both consent to your participation. Please check with your instructor about completing the research requirement in another way.

9. What do I do when I have technical problems with this system?

On the front page is a link that allows you to send an email with your question. This e-mail will be sent to a Marshall staff member who will respond to help you as soon as possible. Please do NOT e-mail the first time you have trouble. Spend some time to try to solve your problem by going through this handout.