

## **Wharton Behavioral Laboratory Proposed New Policies**

**0. The WBL will continue to fulfill ALL requests made by Wharton researchers in a timely manner.** This, of course, is not a new policy. Our goals are (a) to not have a waitlist for the on-campus labs (i.e., all requests fulfilled within 3 months), (b) to accommodate time-sensitive requests as soon as possible outside of normal lab hours, and (c) approve, fulfill, and/or reimburse requests for specialized samples (e.g., M-Turk, field studies) as soon as possible. The new policies are designed to maintain these goals, but respond to current logistical problems and potential financial pressures on the horizon in a way that is fair to all users and does not reduce research productivity. Also, our current definition of a "Wharton researcher" is anyone with a Wharton DARTS account (which is mainly standing faculty and their doctoral students, but also includes some "gray area" researchers). All WBL projects must have a Wharton researcher as a co-author.

**1. Additional thresholds for WBL subsidies of subject payments; \$50,000 cap per sponsor.** The WBL subsidy of subject payments, whether for on-campus or specialized samples, will be 70% at the beginning of each calendar year for each sponsor, 50% after \$14,000 from the WBL budget, 30% after \$28,000, 10% after \$42,000, 0% after \$50,000.

**2. A plan for screening out sessions will be included with on-campus sample requests. Requests will no longer be made for sessions, but for sample sizes for specific experiments. Only two screen-outs of session conducted within the previous 6 months can be "guaranteed" for any experiment.** This restriction applies only to sessions that are shared by two or more researchers. If a researcher needs to screen out more sessions (based on the requested sample size), then WBL staff will work with the researcher to determine the most efficient and fair screen-out plan. Researchers can always screen out ex poste based on session participation data for all subjects or request a dedicated session (possibly with another researcher who is willing to accept a smaller sample size due to multiple screens). For example, a researcher might request two related experiments with each needing  $N=400$  (details on how to make requests will be included in the next call for request). Typically, four sessions would be needed ( $N=200$  for each), and subjects could only participate in one of the four. Thus, the WBL staff would schedule the first session with no screening, the second sessions screening for the first, the third session screening for the first and second, and the fourth session screening for the second and third (and the experimenter would need to screen for the first session ex poste). This restriction only applies to sessions conducted within 6 months of the requested sample. There is no restriction on screening sessions conducted more than 6 months prior, or on sessions allocated to a single researcher.

**3. Total sample size and a power analysis statement will be included with all requests.** Researchers are advised to carefully read the *WBL Guidelines for Statistical Power & Sample Size* (available on the WBL website) and the *WBL Guidelines for Using Amazon's Mechanical Turk* (currently under construction). Generally speaking, medium effects sizes (e.g.,  $r > .2$ ) can be detected with moderate power,  $\phi = 80\%$ , by null hypothesis statistical tests (NHSTs) with  $N=200$  (i.e., a single WBL session), medium/small effects sizes (e.g.,  $r = .15$ ) can be detected with  $N=400$  (i.e., two WBL sessions), and small effect sizes (e.g.,  $r = .10$ ), can be detected with  $N=500 - 1,000$  (i.e., 3-5 WBL sessions). The on-campus labs are best used for medium/small effect sizes and above, but could be used for smaller effects sizes. Samples sizes above 400

create logistical problems and negative externalities for other WBL users. *At the time of request, the sample size needed for the requested experiment will be specified by the researcher, and the researcher will state the type of power analysis conducted to determine the requested sample size: (a) formal power analysis based on effect sizes obtained in previous experiments using the same paradigm, (b) formal power analysis based on effect sizes reported in the literature, (c) no formal power analysis but this sample size has been sufficient in the past and/or is the standard in the literature.* Responses to the power analysis statement are informational only. The WBL will continue to fulfill all requests for data collection.

**4. Final materials are due at noon 4 business days before the first day of a session; the scheduled time will be forfeited at 9am of the following day and made available to all researchers on a first-come-first-served basis.** Final materials are primarily link to websites, but also include custom programs, physical materials, etc. After the deadline, the original researcher can "reclaim" the time if final materials are delivered before another researcher claims the time. It may not be possible to start post-deadline experiments on the first day of the session, but every effort will be made to do so.

**5. Session details are due at noon 4 business days before the first day of a session; the scheduled time will be forfeited at 9am of the following day and made available to all researchers on a first-come-first-served basis.** Session details include specification of screen-out criteria and delivery of any information, materials, software, or hardware required for pre-session testing. After the deadline, the original researcher can "reclaim" the time if final materials are delivered before other researcher claim the time. It may not be possible to start post-deadline experiments on the first day of the session, but every effort will be made to do so.

**Summary Table for Policies 4 and 5**

SCHEDULE OF PRE-SESSION EVENTS	Request for details email	Reminder email	Session Details due at noon	Session time opened to all researchers	Final materials due at noon	Session time opened to all researchers	First day of session
	3 weeks ahead	1 business day ahead	2 weeks ahead		4 days ahead	3 days ahead	
Normal & mornings: day (calendar days)	Monday (21)	Friday (17)	Monday (14)	Monday (7)	Tuesday (6)	Wednesday (5)	Monday (0)
Thursdays: day (calendar days)	Monday (24)	Wednesday (15)	Thursday (14)	Thursday (7)	Friday (6)	Monday (3)	Thursday (0)
Fridays: day (calendar days)	Monday (25)	Thursday (15)	Friday (14)	Friday (7)	Monday (4)	Tuesday (3)	Friday (0)

**6. Educational uses of WBL services and equipment will be permitted, but only if costs to the WBL are minimal and research projects continue to get top priority.** We have always had requests for instructors and students, and have used this policy on a case-by-case basis. Our mission (and budget) has been very research focused: all services must be part of a project that will result in publication in an academic journal. This policy makes this makes current practices explicit.

**7. The WBL only funds the purchase of equipment or software that have a clear potential to be used by multiple researchers.** Historically, the WBL has purchase all equipment that is clearly needed by many/most researchers. Also, when an individual researcher has a specific need, but there is clear potential for use by other researchers, the WBL has paid for 50% of the cost. This policy makes these current practices explicit.