Abstract
Specifications grading is a system that encourages students to focus on mastery of skills and content as opposed to simply attaining scores. This system was used with 16 students who took Principles of Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 2100WQ) in the Spring 2018 semester. All of the work for this course was judged on a Pass/Fail basis. This included weekly online homework assignments, weekly in-class work, exams, writing assignments, and a final paper and poster presentation. Students were offered an opportunity to utilize a token to resubmit failed work until it met the specification to pass.

Introduction
College shouldn’t be a place where students merely demonstrate their understanding of concepts, it should be a place where they engage in active learning. Far too often, students’ primary focus is on achieving the highest grade possible in a course, and not on their growth and development as students. Specifications grading is a system that encourages students to focus on mastery of skills and content as opposed to simply attaining high scores. This system aligns with the teaching and learning goals for Principles of Research Methods in Psychology (PSYC 2100WQ), the capstone course for psychology majors.

Objectives
- Student work will be of a higher quality and meet more stringent professional guidelines.
- Students will feel more comfortable receiving feedback and making revisions.
- Students will feel an intrinsic motivation based on mastery of the material and skills as opposed to an extrinsic motivation based on scores and grades.

Final Paper
As this is a writing class, you will be writing up your research project in APA format. There will be various sections and each will be submitted separately. You will receive feedback and will be expected to make revisions. These revisions need to be incorporated into the final paper which must be a minimum of 15 pages in length, including the title page, references, and figures. The final version of your paper will be graded as ‘P’ or ‘F’ based on the rubric provided.

Components
Each week in lab you will have a different assignment to complete. These assignments are all components of your research project, presentation, and final paper (proposal, lit review, IRB training, draft of introduction, etc.). Specific instructions for each assignment will be given out during lab and also posted on HuskyCT. Each project component must meet qualifications for a rating of “Good/B” in order to receive a ‘P’.

Tokens
You will start the course with five tokens. Tokens may be used to resubmit an assignment for regrading, for an extension on an assignment (the token must be used before the due date to qualify), or to redo an exam. An extension will be for a maximum of one week. More than one token cannot be used for the same assignment.

Grading
In order to obtain a specific grade level, you must complete all requirements as specified in the above table. You may receive a minus grade level if you complete all requirements with the exception of one requirement at the next lower level. You may receive a plus level grade if you complete some requirements at one level and some requirements at a higher level. You must pass the final paper to pass the course.