

Sensory Panel Checklist

- ❑ **Identify the research objectives for your sensory test (define the specific information that you would like to obtain from your sensory panel).**
 - What type of test is most appropriate for meeting identified objectives?
 - Has a valid control been identified for comparison with the experimental product(s)?
- ❑ **Recruit the appropriate number of panelists in advance to participate in the sensory panel.**
 - In scheduling panelists, has thought been given to the length of time needed for a panelist to complete the sensory test? How frequently should panelists be scheduled?
 - How many panelists can be realistically serviced simultaneously?
- ❑ **Devise an evaluation form that will elicit information from individual panelists in a scientific and unbiased manner.**
 - Are scales (i.e. hedonic, just about right) properly worded and balanced?
 - Are questions arranged in a logical sequence (i.e. appearance, aroma, flavor, texture)?
 - Are acceptability and preference questions properly segregated on the evaluation form?
- ❑ **Prepare the appropriate number of panelist evaluation forms (a few extra copies is always a good idea).**
- ❑ **Prepare the needed amounts of experimental and control products for use in the sensory test.**
 - How large of a serving will be needed for each panelist?
 - Have you requested and obtained necessary quantities of ingredients to prepare large-scale batches of product for your sensory panel?
 - How far in advance will products need to be prepared for the taste panel?
 - How will confounding external factors (i.e. temperature) be controlled to ensure consistency of experimental and control products over the course of the panel?
 - Have advance arrangements been made to transport necessary equipment to the sensory facility?
- ❑ **Design strategy for conducting the sensory tests.**
 - Have supporting supplies (plates, cups, bowls, crackers, napkins, etc.) been requested well in advance of the taste panel date?
 - Have sampling containers been labeled with appropriate 3-digit sample ID numbers?
 - Has a mode of communication between panelists in sensory booths and panel administrators in the serving area been devised? Are these instructions clearly described on panelist evaluation forms?
 - How will experimental and control samples be presented (side by side, one at a time)?
 - Is there a predetermined sampling plan to minimize 1st sample bias?
 - Has seating been arranged to accommodate panelists that might arrive early or be required to wait due to delay?
 - Do you have a small treat for panelists (as a token of appreciation) following completion of the sensory test?
- ❑ **Transfer and organize data from evaluation sheets into an Excel spreadsheet prior to statistical analysis (make sure to follow the provided format).**
- ❑ **Arrange a time in advance with the course TA for statistical analysis of your data.**
- ❑ **Analyze data, interpret results, and prepare report according to provided criteria.**