Departmental Honors Program Information and Application
Department of Psychological Science

Departmental Honors

The University's departmental honors program, administered by the Honors College, is designed to recognize students who exhibit an outstanding level of academic achievement in their majors. Students receiving departmental honors are not required to be members of the Honors College. Students receiving university honors may also receive departmental honors but must meet department requirements in addition to Honors College requirements.

Eligibility. Students interested in receiving departmental honors in Psychological Science can apply to the program at any time once they meet the admission requirements:

- Junior academic standing
- Minimum Psychological Science GPA of 3.50
- Has arranged for a faculty mentor who holds a Ph.D. degree to oversee the honors thesis

Requirements for receiving departmental honors. To be awarded departmental honors in Psychological Science, students must:

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.50 in Psychological Science and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50.
- Complete 3 hours of credit in PSYSC 499 across two semesters with a grade of B (3 credit points) or higher in both semesters.
- Complete an honors thesis (HONRS 499 for students enrolled in university honors)
- Submit one copy of the honors thesis **signed by the faculty mentor** to the Director of Undergraduate Studies
- Complete any other requirements set forth by the University Honors College.

Honors thesis. The honors thesis must meet the criteria for a University honors thesis. In addition:

- The faculty mentor (or one of the faculty mentors if there is more than one) must have a Ph.D. degree in psychology. University faculty mentors with doctoral or other terminal degree in another field may be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
- The project must be approved by a representative of the Honors College prior to beginning the project.
- Collaborative theses must be approved in advance by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
- The thesis must be written in current APA format.
- There is no maximum or minimum page limit.
- The student must submit the completed honors thesis to the faculty mentor for evaluation at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or term in which the student plans to graduate.
- A thesis completed for University Honors may be used to meet the departmental honors thesis requirement; however, that thesis must meet **the requirements for receiving** departmental honors.
- The honors thesis/project may consist of any of the following:
    - Empirical thesis, which includes a prospectus and data collection
    - Empirical thesis, which includes a prospectus and archival data or data already collected
    - Meta-analysis
    - A paper in the style and quality of a *Psychological Bulletin* or *Psychological Review* article
    - Philosophical position or one in support of certain point of view (hypothesis, theory)
    - Other formats or types of projects may be approved by the department chair or the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

PSYSC 499. To receive departmental honors in Psychological Science, students must complete 3 credits of PSYSC 499. The course is offered for 1 credit in Fall Semester and 2 credits in Spring Semester; students must receive a grade of B or higher in each phase of the course. PSYSC 499 is designed to allow students completing honors theses the opportunity to discuss their work with other thesis students, provide feedback to one another, and reflect on the research process. To enroll in the course, a student must have been approved for departmental honors and have the permission of the instructor.

Other course credit. To receive credit for the time spent working on the thesis, students may enroll in PSYSC 498, PSYSC 497, HONRS 490, or (if a member of the Honors College) HONRS 499. However, students may enroll for no more than 3 credit hours per semester for the purpose of working on a thesis.

Student responsibilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the departmental honors process and to complete all administrative requirements.

- After their application for departmental honors has been approved students must obtain a departmental honors card from the Honors College office (CA 104) and return the completed card to the Honors College. Students can receive Departmental Honors only if the Honors College has a card on file for them.
- The student must meet with a representative of the Honors College to have the project approved and to obtain a thesis packet.
- The student must submit the completed honors thesis to the faculty mentor for evaluation at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester or term in which the student plans to graduate.
- File a signed thesis proposal project form with the Honors College and a copy of the signed form to the Director of Undergraduate Studies prior to commencement of the research.
- Submit a signed hard copy and an electronic copy of the final thesis to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Faculty mentor responsibilities. The faculty mentor:

- has primary responsibility for overseeing all phases of the project including the literature review, research design, obtaining IRB approval, data collection, and data analysis;
- ensures that the student meets all administrative requirements for departmental honors;
- signs the thesis cover page to indicate that the thesis meets all requirements for an honors project;
- assigns a grade in PSYSC 498, PSYSC 497, HONRS 490, or HONRS 499 as appropriate.

PSYSC 499 instructor responsibilities. The instructor of PSYSC 499 will hold weekly class meetings geared to the course objectives, instruct students in IRB procedures (although, as noted above, the faculty mentor is responsible to overseeing the IRB approval process), and assigning a grade for PSYSC 499. In addition, the PSYSC 499 instructor may provide students with feedback on their literature reviews, research design, and analysis and interpretation of data; however, the faculty mentor makes the final decisions on any issues arising during the thesis process. The PSYSC 499 instructor may set progress deadlines for the purpose of assigning grades and granting permission to enroll in the next phase of the course. If a student is denied enrollment in the second phase of PSYSC 499 for failure to meet first phase deadlines, the student will not be awarded departmental honors.

2009-2010 DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE APPLICATION FORM

Name_____ BSU ID: _____
Last *First* *MI*

Local address _____ Local Phone: _____
_____ Email: _____

Home address _____ Home Phone: _____
_____

Do you meet the minimum criteria?

Current overall GPA: _____

Total credit hours to date (need to have completed at least 63): _____

Psychological Science GPA (must be at least 3.50): _____

What was your grade in PSYSC 241? _____

What was your grade in PSYSC 284? _____

If you meet the minimum criteria and have a Faculty Mentor (*must have a Ph.D. in psychology and approval of Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Studies*) who is willing to supervise your project, then you may be eligible for admissions to the Departmental Honors in Psychological Science Program. You will be notified by mail if you are accepted into the program, once your records are reviewed.

I hereby grant permission to authorized university personnel to review my academic records for my application for the Departmental Honors in Psychological Science Program.

Student's Signature: Date:

I, _____, hereby agree to oversee this student's Honors Thesis/Project and have reviewed the faculty mentor responsibilities.

Mentor's Signature: Date:

I, _____, have reviewed the application and verify that the student qualifies to enter the Departmental Honors in Psychological Science Program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Studies