

Psychology Honors Program

Purpose: The Psychology Honors Program serves to train students to conduct psychological research and prepare them for graduate school. Students receive mentoring, take psychology honors classes, receive assistance in preparing for graduate school, participate in informal activities associated with psychology, and present their work at meetings or co-author a research paper.

The Psychology Honors Program is a combined effort of the Undergraduate Psychology Program and the University Undergraduate Honors Program. Students must first enroll in the Undergraduate Honors Program. After acceptance, students may apply for admission into the Psychology Honors Program.

Admission requirements: 1) The student must have a Psychology Department faculty mentor.

The Psychology Undergraduate Chair has to approve the application, which usually occurs after an interview.

The student must have a minimum Psychology GPA of 3.5.

To remain in the program, the student must be actively involved in research under the direction of the Psychology faculty mentor. In addition, the student must enroll in the required courses listed below, maintain a 3.5 Psychology GPA, and participate in activities associated with the Psychology and University Honors Program.

Courses

In addition to fulfilling the course requirements for an undergraduate Psychology degree, students will take designated Honors classes in Psychology and in the Undergraduate Honors Program. This honors-track course work is designed for students who are expected to be in the program throughout their junior and senior years.

Junior year

Psychology 212. This course, which is currently offered in both Fall and Spring semesters, introduces the student to methodology in Psychology. In addition to completion of the normal course work, honors students will meet with the instructor for an additional hour each week. The weekly meetings will be devoted to: 1) an in-depth discussion of methodological issues at a level appropriate to honors students; and 2) a step-by-step application of methodological principles toward the development of a research project of interest to the student. Thus, this exercise may help the student develop the methodological foundation for an honors thesis. The hour of the tutorial is arranged by mutual agreement of the participants and attendance is mandatory. Dr. Minke, the Psychology Department Chair, will be the instructor. Honors students will receive a 1 h credit by enrolling in Dr. Minke's section of Honors 190: Honors Tutorial. Honors students may enroll in the 1-h a week tutorial concurrently with Psychology 212 or in the following semester after completion of Psychology 212.

Psychology 439. This course is an intensive writing class offered in the Fall semester. Honors students will substitute Psychology 439 for University Honors 495: Introduction to research. In this class, students will learn how to critically read journal papers, conduct simulated research projects, and write articles in APA format. The literature review submitted by the honors students must be comprehensive and relevant to their thesis project. In addition, students will learn how to prepare and give an oral presentation. Dr. Takahashi, the Undergraduate Program Chair, will be the instructor. Grading of Honors students will be in accord with honors standards. That is, the literature review must be thoughtful and well written. Honors students will receive both a letter grade and a written performance evaluation that will be submitted to the University Honors Program.

Psychology 499. Throughout the year, honor students must be enrolled in Psychology 499: Directed Reading or Research. The student and mentor will determine the appropriate number of 499 credit hours per semester.

Honors seminar 491. The University Honors Program requires this interdisciplinary course. The course is designed to promote a broad liberal arts education.

Senior year

Honors 496. Honors 496 is the equivalent of Psychology 499. Students should be enrolled in Honors 496 throughout their senior year. During this time, students are expected to complete their research project and write their senior honors thesis.

Students are expected to present their research at the **Undergraduate Research Symposium and Exhibit**.

