

Psychology Honors Program

Program Description

The Psychology Department's Undergraduate Honors Program is a three semester pattern of courses designed to offer promising undergraduates an opportunity to do sustained scholarly work on a specific research project, culminating in the preparation of an undergraduate Bachelor's thesis.

The program is designed, primarily, for students with a research and scholarly orientation toward psychology. It is of less educational relevance to those students who have a professional or service orientation toward psychology.

The three-semester honors program begins in the Spring semester of the junior year and culminates in a bachelor's thesis and poster presentation in the Spring semester of the senior year.

		Spring Junior Year	
		PSYC 398 (3 hrs) – Junior Honors Seminar <i>(Group Class w/ Honors' Director)</i>	
		PSYC 494 (1-4 hrs) – Honors Research <i>(Laboratory w/ Faculty Advisor)</i>	
Fall Senior Year		Spring Senior Year	
PSYC 498 (3 hrs) – Senior Honors Seminar <i>(Group Class w/ Honors' Director)</i>		PSYC 499 (3 hrs) – Honors Thesis <i>(Honors' Director)</i>	
PSYC 494 (1-4 hrs) – Honors Research <i>(Laboratory w/ Faculty Advisor)</i>		PSYC 494 (1-4 hrs) – Honors Research <i>(Laboratory w/ Faculty Advisor)</i>	

In the first semester, the student registers for Junior Honors Seminar PSYC 398 for 3 hours, and for 1-4 hours of Honors Research PSYC 494. The Junior Honors Seminar is conducted by the Honors Program Director. It deals with the nature of scientific inquiry, with research strategies and general methodology in psychological research, and with development and testing of theory. Honors Research, is taken with an individual staff member who agrees to supervise the candidate's honors work.

In the second semester (Fall semester of the senior year), the student registers for the Senior Honors Seminar PSYC 498 for 3 hours, and for 1-4 hours of Honors Research PSYC 494. The Senior Honors Seminar emphasizes the history of psychological inquiry and also turns to questions of careers in psychology (applications to graduate schools, professional standards of publication, etc.). During that semester, the student is expected to launch and conduct the data collection parts of his/her thesis project.

In the third semester (Spring semester of the senior year), the student registers for PSYC 499, Honors Thesis, and is expected to complete the research, and write and submit the Bachelor's Thesis, with the supervision and assistance of both his/her research supervisor and the Honors Program Director. Honors students that complete all the requirements of the program and have a GPA of 3.0 graduate with High Distinction in Psychology, while those honors students that have a GPA of at least 3.5 graduate with Highest Distinction in Psychology.

Requirements and Procedures for Admission to the Honors Program

Minimum academic requirements for admission into the junior year portion of the program (PSYC 398 and associated registration in PSYC 494) are:

- Completion of first semester of junior year (i.e., 75 credit hours).
- A grade point average of 3.5 in psychology, and of 3.5 in overall University of Illinois cumulative average. Exceptions to this rule may be granted at the direction of the program director.
- Completion of an introductory course in Psychology (Psychology 100, 103, or equivalent), Psychology statistics (Psychology 235, or equivalent), and at least two other courses in Psychology.
- Completion of at least one of the Department's laboratory courses. This requirement may be satisfied during the student's first semester in the program.

The student need not be a psychology major to be admitted to the Honors Program, but the student must declare a Psychology major to graduate with High or Highest Distinction in Psychology.

Of course, most students enrolling in the junior honors seminar have records much stronger than those implied in the above minimum requirements.

Admission to the senior portion of the honors program will depend on the results of the student's performance in PSYC 398 and PSYC 494, and upon his/her interest in continuing in the program. The decision for the student to continue the honors program requires the concurrence of the student, his/her advisor, and the honors program director, after completion of the junior year.