

Undergraduate Studies: Honours Program Information

Who Should Take the Honours Program?

The Honours Program is for students who have demonstrated strong academic performance and who plan to go on to advanced study and research in psychology or a related discipline. Students enrolled in the Psychology Honours Program will have the opportunity to participate in original research, to have close contact with faculty members, to

6. Submission of a brief description of their planned project (minimum 1/2 page, single spaced). It may describe the area of study with a few key references, the question students plan to address and a brief description of the methods and data analytic plan.
7. Submission of the [Tri-Council Ethics Certificate](#) or the [Animal Care Services training](#) (depending on the nature of your project).

Honours Program Admission Appeal Process

Note that students are not guaranteed admission to the Honours Program. If denied, the student can appeal through the Psychology Undergraduate Steering Committee. Appealing students would submit the following documents to the undergraduate advisor within two weeks of receiving the rejection letter:

- a letter of appeal
- a letter of support from their primary supervisor
- the original application materials

Your appeal will be reviewed by the Psychology Undergraduate Steering Committee.

Continuation Requirements: To maintain enrollment in the Honours Program, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain a minimum 3.0 CGPA for all courses taken each semester.
2. Maintain a minimum 3.0 CGPA for all Psychology courses taken each semester.
3. Complete PSYC 301 with a minimum grade of B.
4. Satisfactory attendance at the graduate research seminar in the appropriate graduate area while enrolled in PSYC 490/PSYC 457 and PSYC 499/PSYC 459. Honours students are expected to attend the relevant Area Seminar, normally held bimonthly, or an equivalent number of seminars (usually 5-6) from a combination of Area Seminars. Students should select the appropriate seminars in consultation with their advisor.
5. Continuing permission of the primary supervisor

Students who do not meet the requirements may be withdrawn from the program, but may apply for readmission to the program the following year.

Completion Requirements

1. Complete 60 upper division credit hours, of which 50 must be in upper division Psychology courses, and must include:
 - PSYC 308 History and Systems of Modern Psychology
 - PSYC 490, Honours Project (Fall)*
 - PSYC 499, Honours Project (Spring)

NOTE: No more than 9 upper division credits may be in Directed Studies courses. Up to 12 upper division credits may be approved options from other departments.

2. Meet the Bachelor of Arts Honours degree requirements of the University and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The Honours Project

The Honours Project is completed in two-semester (fall/spring sequence) and is the most important part of the Psychology Honours Program. It provides an opportunity for the student to become involved in original research. Some Honours Projects originate with students; others are closely related to ongoing faculty research programs. Students may collect their own data or they may use archived data.

The proposal for the Honours Project will be developed during the Fall semester and applications for appropriate ethics or animal care certificates should be made. Students will develop a research proposal based on readings of the literature and on discussion with their supervisors. The research topic should be one that fits within generally recognized areas in psychology and behavioural neuroscience. A central question should be formulated in ways that can be answered by marshaling evidence. The evidence typically will be data collected by the student, or existing data that can be made available to the student. Because the Honours Project must be completed in two semesters, students should be careful not to choose projects that make them too dependent on the cooperation of external institutions and agencies. Together, students and their primary supervisor will identify a secondary supervisor. This secondary supervisor can be either a psychology faculty member, an adjunct faculty member in Psychology, or a faculty member in a related area approved by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

PSYC 499/ PSYC 459

Students will enroll in PSYC 499/ PSYC 459 in the Spring semester to represent their involvement in the final semester of the Honours Project and the work conducted with the Primary and Secondary Supervisor. There is no regularly scheduled seminar associated with this course number. The final grade for PSYC499/PSYC457 will be determined by the examining committee and based on common criteria.

2. Where does this supervisor fall on a scale of "guided" vs. "independent" research? How involved will they be in providing structure, influencing your design and choice of measures, reading multiple drafts of your Honours Proposal or Project Report, watching a practice talk, etc.; and how much involvement of that kind do you want? Faculty members who will be on study leave may not be the most available mentors. You may wish to speak with former