

A Description of the Revised Honors Program in Psychology

Fall Semester, 2005

Below is an outline of the **recommended** progression through honors. Although the psychology department believes that our recommended progression represents the sequence most likely to result in a favorable outcome, other possibilities for progression through honors exist. The information in red represents requirements or deadlines, not simply recommendations.

Fall of Junior Year: Student is invited to pursue Honors in Psychology

Junior psychology majors who have met the basic requirements for honors (i.e., G.P.A. of 3.2, and average of 3.0 in Methods 1 and 2) are contacted by mail and invited to consider Honors in Psychology. The names of eligible students are also circulated among faculty. During fall semester, students wishing to pursue honors in psychology seek out an interested faculty member to serve as their primary honors adviser.

Spring of Junior Year: Student is accepted into the Honors Program

Although not required, students are strongly encouraged to enroll in a Private Reading during the spring semester of their junior year. As the topic area of the project is clarified, the student assembles an honors committee consisting of three interested faculty members (including the primary adviser). At the end of spring semester, the candidate submits a three- to five-page proposal to the committee and convenes the committee for their approval. Once the committee approves the proposal, the student is formally accepted into the Honors program. No student will be allowed to registrar for Honors until his/her committee approves the proposal.

Fall of Senior Year: Student collects and analyzes data

At the beginning of the fall semester of the senior year, the student begins data collection. The student is required to give a progress report to their committee at the end of fall semester. If the committee feels that the student is not making satisfactory progress toward completing the honors project, the student's participation in the honors program can be terminated at that time. All students must have their honors project approved by their committee on or before the last day of registration for spring semester (in November). All students must then register for honors for the Spring semester of their senior year.

End of Winter Term Senior Year: Student submits introduction and methods sections

By the end of the first week of classes in the second semester of senior year, the student submits a draft of the introduction and methods sections of the thesis to the advisor. Students who do not meet this deadline may be asked to drop Honors and enroll in Independent Research Problems.

Spring of Senior Year: Student presents research to students and faculty and defends thesis

All honor students must be enrolled in Honors Research (PSYC 680) for the spring of their senior year. One week prior to their oral defense, the student submits a written thesis to the honors committee. After the oral defense is held, the committee recommends the appropriate level of honors to the department. The department decides on the level of honors to be awarded to each student and submits their recommendation to the Honors at Graduation Committee for final approval. After the honors defense, students will construct a poster presenting their honors work and attend a poster session for all interested students and faculty.