

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

HONORS PROGRAM Details

The Honors Program in Psychology at Wright State University provides students with an opportunity to experience research first-hand, to become immersed in a topic of interest and to develop the skills of scientific inquiry. Over a one-and-a-half-year period (starting in spring of junior year), students work with a faculty mentor to research a topic, design an experiment, collect data, analyze data and present results both in a written thesis and in an oral presentation as part of a departmental research symposium.

Admission Requirements

1. _____ Cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 on all work, including all transfer credit.
2. _____ 50 semester-hours completed
3. _____ Successful completion of PSY 3010 and 3020.

NOTE: Exceptions require approval of both the thesis advisor and honors program director

4. _____ The signature of a faculty member in the Department of Psychology who agrees to supervise the student's thesis on the application form attached to this document.

NOTE: Exceptions require the approval of the honors program director. Under some circumstances the faculty mentor may be in a different academic department but agrees to adhere to the expectations and graduation requirements of the Department of Psychology Honors Program.

Graduation Requirements

1. _____ PSY 4070 (Honors Research Project)
Required: At least 2 credits; maximum of 6 credits.
2. _____ PSY 4050-01 (Honors Seminar) FIRST YEAR students
Required*: Taken during spring semester of junior year or earlier.
* Exceptions require approval from the program director.
3. _____ PSY 4050-02 (Honors Seminar) SECOND YEAR students.
Required: Taken during spring semester of senior year or earlier. Coincides with project completion.
4. _____ Written honors thesis approved by faculty research mentor.
5. _____ Oral presentation and defense of thesis at annual Department of Psychology Honors Symposium.

Starting the Program

Pre-Application Process:

- You are encouraged to **discuss the honors program with the director** as soon as possible. It is recommended that students complete the pre-application process early in their junior year. The director can help you understand the program details and help you to **find a faculty mentor for your research thesis**.
- **Meet with various faculty** to discuss possible thesis research topics. You are not expected to walk in with a fully developed research proposal. However, students should have an idea of what the faculty member does (look up their research in Google Scholar or some other research database).
- Students should **discuss an overall plan** and the thesis mentor's expectations for each semester. Faculty have different styles of interaction and research practices vary from field to field in psychology. It is important that you keep in regular contact with your mentor.
- Once you have identified a mentor, you may **apply for admission**.

Application Process:

- **Complete the attached application form and submit (along with an unofficial copy of your transcript) to the Honors Program Director.**
 - *NOTE: Your faculty mentor MUST sign the application form.*
- By the end of the semester when you submit your application, you will receive a notification letter acknowledging your acceptance into the honors program along with instructions for next steps to be taken.

The Planning Process

- Typically, you will be expected to do considerable background reading or complete a literature search before a project is designed. It is expected that you will develop a thorough understanding of the current state of research in the problem area. Later these fundamentals will be used in writing the Introduction section of your thesis.
- During this time (typically Spring of Junior Year) it is recommended that you enroll in Part 1 of the Honors Seminar (PSY 4050-01; see Honors Seminar below).

Research Time and Credit (PSY 4070; 2-6 credit hours):

- The primary focus of the honors program is the training and time spent preparing and conducting the research. By registering for the Honors Research Project (PSY 4070), students receive credit for these activities. Students are required to register for at least two hours but may earn a maximum of six credit hours. Course credit may vary from one to four credit-hours each semester, as determined by consulting with the mentor and considering the amount of time commitment expected that semester.
 - *NOTE: Honors research requires dedication and time that may exceed the hours of course credit for which you are enrolled.*
- A year-long plan should be developed by the student and mentor. A common pattern is for students to register for 1 credit-hour their first semester when they are doing background reading and the project is just getting started, and then 2-4 credit-hours their last two semesters when they are collecting data, analyzing it, and writing the thesis. In exceptional

cases, hours earned in PSY 4060 (Independent Research) may apply to this requirement. Please consult with the Honors director about this.

- Only students formally accepted into the Psychology Honors Program may register for the Honors Research Project (PSY 4070). Student's get registration approval from their mentor.
 - *NOTE: The section number of PSY 4070 will match that assigned to your mentor (e.g., Dr. Claflin is -10; Dr. Juvina is - 09).*
- **A Progress Report (see below) should be submitted to the Psychology Honors Director at the beginning and midterm (Week 7) of each semester (summer excluded).**

Preparing the FINAL PRODUCTS

Honors Seminar (PSY 4050; 2-4 credit hours):

- The Honors Seminar (PSY 4050) is a two credit-hour seminar that is offered each Spring Semester. Only students who have been accepted into the honors program and who are making satisfactory progress may enroll in PSY 4050. The Honors Director must provide Instructor Approval for registration.
- Students are required to take the seminar twice*, first in junior year and then in senior year. Both juniors and seniors participate together. [*Exceptions require approval from the program director.]
- The seminar provides an opportunity for students to relate to one another and to discuss each other's thesis research. The seminar also prepares seniors for the formal oral and written presentation of theses. Seniors will not get a final grade until a mentor-approved written thesis is submitted, the required oral presentation is completed, and all other seminar requirements are met.

A note about course credit and grading:

PSY 4050 and 4070 are graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must earn a final grade of "P" in these courses in order to graduate as a Psychology Honors Scholar. A student receiving a failing grade is automatically dropped from the program. In the event that a student receives a pass in one or more honors courses but does not complete the program, the courses still count as psychology electives.

Written Thesis:

- A publication-quality empirical report following APA format should be submitted in time for graduation deadlines. The thesis must be typed and normally should follow the format of the American Psychological Association (APA) journals, but if publication is targeted for a non-APA journal, an appropriate alternate format is acceptable.
- One paper copy of the thesis and one electronic copy (in a Word or PDF format) must be submitted to the Psychology Honors Program Director in time for graduation deadlines.
 - ***NOTE: This document should be sent by the honors thesis advisor in acknowledgement of their approval of the final product.***
- A copy of the final approved thesis will be forwarded to the University Honors Office.
 - ***NOTE:*** Transcripts for those finishing late will receive a temporary grade. Students cannot graduate with a temporary grade on their transcripts. If the grade is changed before the due date of late grade changes for Spring Semester graduation, the transcript will reflect graduation with honors in Spring Semester. Individuals who

defend their theses in Spring Semester but who will graduate in a subsequent semester will not have as severe a time constraint.

Oral Presentation of Thesis:

- A formal presentation will be scheduled as a requirement of the honors seminar (PSY4050) which is only offered in the Spring Semester.
 - **NOTE: ALL honors students in the honors seminar are required to attend.**
 - In exceptional cases, a student who cannot give his or her presentation in the honors seminar may be allowed to give a special individual presentation and defense, if approved and scheduled by the Honors Program Director.
- Faculty, family, and friends typically are invited to attend.
- Students are also encouraged, with their thesis advisor's approval, to present their research at a regional undergraduate research conference, at a Psi Chi conference or at other scientific conferences.

HONOR DESIGNATIONS

Students who successfully complete all program requirements earn the designation of "**Psychology Honors Scholar.**" Students who also complete the university honors requirements earn the designation of "University Honors Scholar." These designations are indicated on transcripts.

University Honors

A student planning to complete the departmental honors program may also apply to enter the University Honors Program. The university program has special requirements and optimally should be started in the freshman year, somewhat before a student becomes active in this department's program. Interested students are advised to call 775-2976 or visit the University Honors Studies Office, 160 University Hall (email: honors@wright.edu). Students who complete both Departmental Honors and University Honors earn the designation of University Honors Scholar.

Latin Honors

The University also awards Latin honors designations based upon overall cumulative grade point average. Awards are designated as *Summa Cum Laude* for GPA > 3.9, *Magna Cum Laude* for GPA > 3.7, and *Cum Laude* for GPA > 3.5.

Dean's List

Students may be placed on the Dean's list each semester to signify that they have achieved a high grade-point average that semester. To be placed on the Dean's List, students must have at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester based on at least 12 hours of credit. Categories are: 3.9-4.0 for highest honors, 3.7-3.89 for high honors, and 3.5-3.69 for honors.

Psi Chi

Psychology honor students are encouraged to become active members of the Wright State University Chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. If you meet the qualifications for admission, you will receive a formal invitation via your WSU email address.

Sample Research Interests of Psychology Faculty

Faculty	Area of Research
Dragana Claflin	Learning & Memory; Classical Conditioning; Behavioral Neuroscience
Ion Juvina	Human Factors, Cognitive Strategies, Game Theory
David La Huis	Item Response Theory, Multilevel modeling
Michal Kraszpulski	Comparative Animal Behavior
Corey Miller	Personnel Psychology, Legal Issues, Diversity in Management
Patricia Schiml	Human Sexuality
Valerie Shalin	Workplace Expertise, Aiding and Training Technology
Debra Steele-Johnson	Motivation and Training
Scott Watamaniuk	2D & 3D Visual Motion Processes, Smooth Pursuit Eye Movements
Herbert Colle (emeritus)	Spatial Learning, Mental Workload, Short-Term Memory

Semester: _____ Year: _____

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
HONORS PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

This progress report should be completed at the beginning and midterm (Week 7) of each semester and submitted to the Director of the Psychology Honors Program.

- Registration overrides for PSY 4070 go through your thesis advisor.
- Registration overrides for PSY 4050 go through the Honors Program Director.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Thesis TITLE or Topic (tentative): _____

Thesis Advisor Review and Approval Signature: _____

Indicate status of required coursework:

PSY 4070 (Honors Research Project) # Hours Completed _____ #Hours In-Progress _____

PSY 4050-01 (First-Year Honors Seminar): COMPLETED / REGISTERED / WAIVED (circle one)

PSY 4050-02 (Second Year Honors Seminar) COMPLETED / REGISTERED / WAIVED (circle one)

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- _____ Background reading and literature review
- _____ Research Design
- _____ Develop Stimulus Materials
- _____ Develop Response Measures
- _____ IRB/ IACUC Approval
- _____ Conduct pilot testing
- _____ Develop instructions
- _____ Acquire subjects
- _____ Collect data
- _____ Summarize/score data
- _____ Statistically analyze data
- _____ Write thesis (_____ Intro; _____ Methods; _____ Results; _____ Discussion)
- _____ Prepare oral presentation
- _____ Other (Explain)

Mark each item:

√ = Completed

IP = In-Progress

TBD= To Be Done later

NA = Not Applicable

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION

SUBMIT TO:

Director, Psychology Honors Program
335 Fawcett

Student's Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

UID: _____ Expected Graduation (Semester/Year): _____

Thesis TITLE or Topic (tentative): _____

I agree to supervise this honors student.

Thesis Advisor Signature: _____
Date _____

Admission Requirements (check if met).

Please provide a copy of your unofficial transcript along with this application.

5. _____ Cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 on all work, including all transfer credit.
6. _____ 50 semester-hours completed
7. _____ Successful completion* of PSY 3010 and 3020.
8. _____ The signature of a faculty member in the Department of Psychology* who agrees to supervise the student's thesis on the application form attached to this document.

**NOTE: Exceptions require the approval of the honors program director and thesis supervisor. Under some circumstances the faculty mentor may be in a different academic department but agrees to adhere to the expectations graduation requirements of the Department of Psychology Honors Program.*

I acknowledge that all information submitted is correct.

Student Signature: _____
Date _____