

**HONORS PROGRAM for SEMESTERS
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY**

Do you have a strong interest in psychology? Would you like to learn how psychologists really conduct research? Are you interested in graduate study in psychology? Do you like to find out how things work? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then you should look into the Psychology Honors Program. Discuss the program with the honors program director, with your faculty advisor, or with other psychology honors students as soon as possible to understand the Psychology Honors Program and to take full advantage of it. You need to be accepted into the Psychology Honors Program no later than the end of the first semester of your junior year. The following document describes the program and some of its important rules and requirements.

Purpose

The Psychology Honors Program provides students an opportunity to enrich their undergraduate education with an intensive program of independent study and research. The focus of the program is on psychological research and it is especially valuable for students who plan to pursue graduate education. Students work individually with a faculty member, their thesis advisor, on state-of-the-art research which could be of such merit that it will be submitted to a scientific journal for publication. Students will be active participants in all aspects of the research, including conception, design, implementation, analysis, and writing. Honors students must complete a written honors thesis and must orally present and defend their research in the honors seminar.

Honors 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.

Admission Requirements

Students must satisfy the following requirements for admission to the honors program.

1. A student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 on all work including all transfer credit.
2. A student must have earned at least 50 semester-hours.
Entry should be as early as possible as soon as this requirement has been met.
Completion of the program requires at least three full academic year semesters with the final term being a spring semester before you graduate.
3. A student must have successfully completed PSY 3010 and 3020.
Only in exceptional cases, and with thesis advisor's and honors program director's approval, will a student be admitted before PSY 3010 and 3020 has been completed.
4. A student must obtain an honors program faculty member who agrees to supervise the student's thesis. Only full-time regular tenured or tenure-track Psychology faculty may supervise honors theses. See the list on page 5. Exceptions must be approved by the Departmental Honors Program Director.

Starting the Program

To apply for admission, a student should complete the attached application form and submit a copy of the completed form to the Honors Program Director, Dr. Colle. You are encouraged to discuss the program with him as soon as possible. He can help you understand the program and

help you to find a faculty thesis advisor. A list of Psychology faculty and their research interests is attached. Make an appointment to discuss possible thesis research. You are not expected to walk in with a fully developed research proposal. However, students must discuss possible thesis possibilities with potential faculty thesis advisors before officially applying. Your faculty thesis advisor must sign the application form. After you have been accepted into the honors program, you will work closely with your thesis advisor. 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. Research projects are developed from discussions between honors students and faculty advisors over the course of an entire semester or more. Students should discuss an overall plan and the thesis advisor'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 thesis advisor.

Program Requirements and Academic Credit

Thesis Research. Thesis research is the primary focus of the honors program. Students register in Honors Research Project (PSY 4070) to receive credit for these activities, and are required to register for at least two hours of PSY 4070 but may earn credit for a maximum of six hours of PSY 4070. Course credit may vary from one to four credit-hours each semester. The section number of PSY 4070 specifies the number of credit hours. Only students formally accepted into Psychology's Honors Program may register for the Honors Research Project (PSY 4070) In order to register for PSY 4070, an honors student's thesis advisor must provide Instructor Approval (green slip, which is then taken to the Psychology Undergraduate Program office). Students should discuss the number of credit hours to be taken and the work expected with their honors thesis advisor. A year long plan should be developed. 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 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. This must be petitioned. A Progress Report (see attached form) should be submitted to the Psychology Honors Director each semester prior to registering for PSY 4070.

Honors Seminar. 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 (Dr. Colle must sign your green slip). Students are required to take the seminar twice. Both juniors and seniors participate together. The seminar provides the opportunity for students to relate to one another and to discuss each other's thesis research. The seminar also affords preparation for formal presentation of theses. Seniors will not get a final grade until an approved written thesis is submitted and the required oral presentation is completed, as well as completing the other seminar requirements.

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.

Thesis Preparation and Completion. One paper copy and one electronic copy (of an approved file type) of the thesis must be submitted to the Psychology Honors Program Director,

Department of Psychology, for his or her approval. Honors thesis advisors must approve the final copy of the thesis prior to submission. Many revisions of the thesis may be needed prior to submitting the final copy. A copy of the final approved thesis will be forwarded to the University Honors Office. The thesis must be typed and normally should follow the format of the American Psychological Association journals, but if publication is targeted for a non-APA journal, an appropriate alternate format is acceptable.

For May graduates, honors status will be reported to the University Honors Program in April. A draft thesis manuscript must be approved by the thesis advisor and submitted to the Honors Program Director (in PSY 4070) no later than the third week in April or the honors designation on the transcript will be canceled. Exceptions must be approved by the Honors Program Director. Transcripts for those finishing late will receive a temporary grade. Students can not graduate with a temporary grade on their transcripts. If the grade is changed before the due date of late grade changes for May graduation, the transcript will reflect graduation with honors in May. 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. An oral presentation and defense of the thesis is required. A formal presentation will be scheduled in the honors seminar (PSY4050) as a requirement of the course, which is offered in Spring Semester. All honors students in the honors seminar are required to attend. Faculty, family, and friends typically are invited to attend, as determined by the course instructor. 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. Students are also encouraged, with their thesis advisor's approval, to present their research at a regional undergraduate research conference, at a Psi Chi ($\Psi\chi$) conference or at other scientific conferences.

For further information contact:

Herbert A. Colle
Director of Psychology Honors Program
937-775-2391

Other Honors Designations

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 775-2660 or visit the University Honors Office, 243 Millett. 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. In order 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 ($\Psi\chi$), the National Honor Society in Psychology. An application can be obtained from the Department of Psychology, 335 Fawcett.

Psychology Honors Program Faculty 2011-2012

Regular Faculty	Area of Research
Kevin Bennett	Display Design, Human-Computer Interaction
Nathan Bowling	Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Gary Burns	Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Dragana Claflin	Develop Neuroscience, Learn & Memory in Human Infants & Other Mammals
Gale Kleven	Developmental Neuroscience
Herbert Colle	Spatial Learning, Mental Workload, Short-Term Memory
Jean Edwards	Personality Assessment, Stress and Coping
John Flach	Perceptual-Motor Skill, Ecological Psy., Human Machine System
Robert Gilkey	Audition, Spatial Hearing, Auditory Displays, Virtual Environments
Martin Gooden	Social Psychology
Michael Hennessy	Developmental Psychobiology, Stress and Social Behavior
Helen Klein	Human Factors, Cross-Cultural Research\
Brian Kruger	Learning and Motivation
David LaHuis	Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Corey Miller	Personnel Psychology, Legal Issues, Diversity in Management
Allen Nagy	Color Displays, Visual Science
Tamara Schneider	Stress and Physiology, Persuading Healthy Behaviors
Valerie Shalin	Workplace Expertise, Aiding and Training Technology
Wayne Shebilske	Computer-Based Training of Complex Skills, Perception and Motor Control
Debra Steele Johnson	Motivation and Training
Pamela Tsang	Attention, Aviation Psychology, Cognitive Aging
Scott Watamaniuk	2D & 3D Visual Motion Processes, Smooth Pursuit Eye Movements
Daniel Weber	Psychoacoustics, Auditory Warnings

**Progress Report
Honors Program
Department of Psychology**

This progress report should be completed each semester and submitted to the mailbox of Herbert A. Colle, Director of the Psychology Honors Program. Your Thesis Advisor must sign a green slip in order for you to register for PSY 4070. Dr. Colle must sign a green slip for you to register for PSY 4050 in Spring Semester.

Student Name: _____

Date _____

Thesis Advisor Name: _____

Semester _____

Indicate the courses and hours that you have registered for this semester:

PSY 4070 (Honors Research Project) hours registered for ____ Hours previously taken ____

PSY 4050 (Honors Seminar) first year students register for Section 01: _____

PSY 4050 (Honors Seminar) second year students register for Section 02: _____

Research Topic _____

Check all activities to be performed this semester.

- ____ Background reading and literature review
- ____ Research Design
- ____ Develop Stimulus Materials
- ____ Develop Response Measures
- ____ Conduct pilot testing
- ____ Develop instructions
- ____ Acquire subjects
- ____ Get Human Subject Approval
- ____ Collect data
- ____ Summarize/score data
- ____ Statistically analyze data
- ____ Write thesis
- ____ Prepare oral presentation
- ____ Provide feedback to participants
- ____ Other (Explain) _____

Student Signature

Thesis Advisor Signature

Quarter to Semester Transition Guidelines

Admission Requirements

Requirement 2. The second requirement for admission is 50 semester-hours. Quarter-hour courses will be converted to semester-hours by multiplying the quarter-hours by $\frac{2}{3}$, the standard conversion factor.

Requirement 3. The third requirement for completing Psy 3010 and 3020 semester courses will be satisfied by completing the Psy 301, 302, and 303 quarter course sequence, which is required of all psychology majors. Credit for only one or two of the quarter course sequence will follow the Department of Psychology conversion rules.

Honors Program Graduation Requirements

1. The honors program requires that students complete 2-6 semester-hours of Honors Research Project PSY 4070. This can be met in part or completely by enrolling in the quarter course PSY 499. Quarter credits will be multiplied by the $\frac{2}{3}$ to convert to equivalent semester credits using the standard conversion rule.
2. Students in the honors program also complete the semester course Honors Seminar PSY 4050 typically taking section 01 as juniors and section 02 as seniors. This requirement can be met by taking the quarter course Honors Seminar Psy489 section 01 and section 02 respectively. Either one or both quarter courses can be substituted for the semester courses.