

Psychology Honors Program

Program Description

The Psychology Department's 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, open to all majors, is primarily designed for students with a Psychology research and scholarly orientation. It is of less educational relevance to those students who have a professional or direct-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, Junior Honors Seminar](#) (3 hrs) – Group class with Honors' Coordinator
- [PSYC 494, Advanced Research in Psychology](#) (1-4 hrs) – Laboratory with Faculty Advisor

The Junior Honors Seminar, PSYC 398, is conducted by the Honors Program coordinator. It deals with the nature of scientific inquiry, with research strategies and general methodology in psychological research, and with the development and testing of theory. Advanced Research, PSYC 494, is taken with an individual faculty member who agreed to supervise the student's work.

Fall Senior Year

- [PSYC 498, Senior Honors Seminar](#) (3 hrs) – Group class with Honors' Coordinator
- [PSYC 494, Advanced Research in Psychology](#) (1-4 hrs) – Laboratory with Faculty Advisor

The Senior Honors Seminar, PSYC 498, 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 this semester, the student is expected to launch and conduct the data collection parts of their thesis project.

Spring Senior Year

- [PSYC 499, Senior Honors Seminar](#) (3 hrs) – Group class with Honors' Coordinator
- [PSYC 494, Advanced Research in Psychology](#) (1-4 hrs) – Laboratory with Faculty Advisor

*Students are expected to complete the research, write and submit the [Bachelor's Thesis](#), with the supervision and assistance of the research supervisor and the Honors Program coordinator. Honors students who complete the program requirements and earn at least a 3.0 GPA (Psychology and cumulative), graduate with High Distinction in Psychology, while Honors students with at least a 3.5 GPA (Psychology and cumulative), graduate with Highest Distinction in Psychology. **(Non-Psychology majors are not eligible for distinction)***

Admissions Requirements

Minimum academic requirements for admission include:

- Minimum 2nd semester junior standing.
- A grade point average of 3.5 in both psychology and overall at the University of Illinois at the time of application. *Exceptions 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 research methods/laboratory courses. **Strongly recommend that this requirement is satisfied prior to the start of the program.**

**Historically, students admitted to the Honors Program exceed these minimum requirements.

Admission to the senior portion of the Honors Program will depend on the results of the student's first-semester performance in PSYC 398, Junior Honors Seminar, and PSYC 494, Advanced Research in Psychology, and upon the student's interest in continuing in the program. The decision for the student to continue into the senior year Honors Program requires the concurrence of the student, their faculty advisor, and the honors program coordinator.

Note to Non-Psychology Majors: Non-Psychology majors are routinely admitted to the Honors Program. However, Psychology Departmental Distinction is not awarded to non-Psychology students.