Psychology Honors Track

**Purpose:** The Psychology Honors Program serves to train students to conduct psychological research and prepare them for graduate school. Students receive mentoring, take psychology honors classes, receive assistance in preparing for graduate school, participate in informal activities associated with psychology, and present their work at meetings or co-author a research paper.

The Psychology Honors Program is a combined effort of the Undergraduate Psychology Program and the University Undergraduate Honors Program. Students must first be accepted into the Psychology Honors Track before applying to the Honors Program:

Psychology Honors Track Admission requirements:

1. The student must have a Psychology Department faculty mentor of faculty mentor approved by the Psychology Honors Director.

2. The Psychology Honors Director has to approve the application, which usually occurs after an interview.

3. The student must have a minimum Psychology GPA of 3.5.

To remain in the program, the student must be actively involved in research under the direction of the Psychology faculty mentor. In addition, the student must enroll in the required courses listed below, maintain a 3.5 Psychology GPA, and participate in activities associated with the Psychology and University Honors Program.

**Courses**

In addition to fulfilling the course requirements for an undergraduate Psychology degree, students will take designated Honors classes in Psychology and in the Undergraduate Honors Program. This honors-track course work is designed for students who are expected to be in the program throughout their junior and senior years.

**Psychology 439** (Fall only, WI) or HON 495 (spring, WI/O) 3 credits

The PSY 439 course is an intensive writing class offered in the Fall semester. It is preferred that Honors students take Psychology 439 when possible as it is designed with the Psychology Honors students' needs in mind. In this class, students will learn how to critically read journal papers, conduct simulated research projects, and write articles in APA format. The literature review submitted by the honors students must be comprehensive and relevant to their thesis project. In addition, students will learn how to prepare and give an oral presentation. Dr. Lorey Takahashi, the Psychology Honors Director, or someone chosen by Dr. Takahashi, will be the instructor. Grading of Honors students will be in accord with honors standards. That is, all writing assignments must be thoughtful and well written. Honors students will receive both a letter grade and a written performance evaluation that will be submitted to the University Honors Program.
At the end of PSY 439 or HON 495, students are required to present their research proposals at the spring or fall Undergraduate Showcase.

*The Psychology Honors track will grant exemptions to the above course requirement on a case-by-case basis for exceptional students who have drafted a completed written proposal in APA format, under the supervision of a faculty mentor. This proposal will need to pass review by the Psychology Honors Director, and students are still required to present their research proposals at the spring or fall Undergraduate Showcase.

**Psychology 499 and/or HON 496:** 6 credits total
Throughout their research, honor students must be enrolled in Psychology 499: Directed Reading or Research or HON 496. The student and mentor will determine the appropriate number of 499 credit hours per semester. During this time, students are expected to complete their research project and write their senior honors thesis.

Students enrolled in either course are required to attend the Honors Program senior project series in their first semester of research to be up to date on Honors Program requirements, criteria, and timelines.

**Honors seminar 491:** (WI), 3 credits
The University Honors Program requires this interdisciplinary course. The course is designed to promote a broad liberal arts education. It can be taken at any time and is not a pre-requisite for higher level Honors courses.

At the completion of their research project, students are required to present their final findings at the spring or fall Undergraduate Showcase.
Psychology Honors Program Application

Name:

Email:

Psychology GPA:

Status (circle): Sophomore  Junior  Senior

Faculty Mentor:

Expected date of graduation:

List completed Psychology courses and grade:

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