

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 classes, receive assistance in preparing for graduate school, participate in informal activities associated with psychology, undertake faculty-mentored Honors thesis or portfolio project in Psychology and present their work at the undergraduate showcase.

The Psychology Honors Track is a combined effort of the Undergraduate Psychology department and the UHM Honors Program. Psychology majors or students planning to be Psychology majors who wish to also participate in Honors must apply to the Honors program and be admitted. However, admission to Honors Psychology is dependent on the following requirements:

1. The student must have a Psychology Department faculty mentor or faculty mentor approved by the Psychology Honors Director, or have a clear plan for research or applied work that fits the criteria for an Honors project.
2. The Psychology Honors Director has to approve the application, which usually occurs after an interview. This approval is communicated to Honors via the Departmental Approval Form on the Mākālei Honors portal. Students should come to the meeting having prepared the worksheet below.
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 a Psychology faculty mentor. Students who wish to be mentored by non-Psychology faculty must consult with the Psychology Honors Director before proceeding. 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 & Requirements

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. Students who enter Honors as first year students and fulfill the lower division requirements are waived from the HON 491 course requirement.

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.

*Upon consultation with the Honors director, other HON courses may substitute for HON 491.

Submission of a 10-12 page (minimum) proposal for a thesis or portfolio project in Psychology, approved by the faculty mentor via a completed proposal/mentor form on Mākālei.

We highly recommend that students take a **Psychology 4X9 seminar** with a PSY faculty member or **HON 495** to get them started on the process of writing a research proposal.

Students may also opt to draft a completed written proposal in APA format, under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

After submission of the Honors Project Proposal:

HON 494 Honors Workshop (zero credits). This is a workshop designed to accompany the PSY 499 or HON 496 directed readings. Students will learn about the protocol of working with faculty, come up with a detailed plan for their directed reading/independent work, and become familiar with Honors Program criteria, timelines, and resources.

Psychology 499 and/or HON 496: 6 credits total

Throughout their research, Honors 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.

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

