

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS IN PSYCHOLOGY FOR PSYCHOLOGY MAJORS

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Psychology departmental honors has the following requirements:

Admission Requirements

1. Have declared Psychology as a major
2. Completed 15 hours of academic credit at EMU
3. Hold a minimum GPA of 3.3 overall, 3.3 in Psychology
4. Enroll before the beginning of their senior year
5. Enroll at the University Honors Office

Program Requirements

1. Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.3 overall, 3.3 in Psychology, and 3.3 in Honors courses.
2. Complete a minimum of 12 hours of Honors credits in Psychology
3. Honors Credits (12 credit hours minimum):
 - a. Honors Courses: Six to nine hours of Honors contracted regular psychology courses or Honors Psychology Courses as listed by the registrar.
 - b. Independent Research for Thesis Work: Three to six hours of Individual Study Research credits should be completed to support the thesis work (PSY499 Independent Study required, PSY 399 Independent Reading optional).
4. Presentation of Senior Thesis either at the Undergraduate Symposium or other format organized by the student and faculty mentor.

Honors Courses

For regular psychology courses not designated as honors, the student and instructor (of a course with the PSY prefix) will work together to decide what the student will do to make the course an honors course (this is not required of courses already listed in the course catalog as honors courses). The additional work should be an enrichment of the students' learning. An Honors Contract form must be filled out, signed, and submitted on the Honors College website. Grading is the same as normally applies in the course being contracted. The honors work is not separately graded, however the overall grade in the class must be at a B or better to receive honors credit.

Note: *students who are pursuing University Honors cannot contract PSY 101 and PSY 103 as Departmental Honors credits because these courses are a part of the Gen Ed Honors Program (i.e., the courses cannot count across different honors designates).*

Senior Thesis Requirements

Students seeking departmental honors in Psychology are expected to complete a senior thesis. The thesis should involve an empirical research experience that includes the collection of prior research/literature within the field (e.g., primary source journals) to inform a research hypothesis(es), the design of a methodology to test said hypothesis(es), the collection of data (direct or archival), the analysis of data, and the completion of a formal thesis document in APA style. The Research should be started as promptly as possible in the Senior year to ensure that there is enough time to finish the project, write it up, and present “defend” it.

- Students must find a faculty member to mentor their senior thesis in advance (Winter of Junior year recommended).
- Students must contract honors in PSY 499, Independent Study/Research, with their identified faculty senior thesis advisor in conjunction with this project.
- Students are required to submit a senior thesis proposal form to the honors college the semester before they graduate. This form requires approval/signatures from the faculty advisor and a departmental honors advisor before submission.
- The thesis paper should be approximately 40-60 pages and use 7th edition APA format, except for the Title page, Abstract, and Table of Contents (which conform to university formats). For these initial pages, follow the instructions for Senior Theses from the Honors College.
- Students are required to present or “defend” their thesis, either by presenting to the faculty and departmental advisor or as part of a presentation at the annual undergraduate symposium at EMU.

Note: *Prior to beginning research with humans or animals, the project must be submitted and approved by the UHSRC or the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at EMU.*

Note: *Final theses are due to the Honor’s College before the end of the graduation semester by about three weeks.*

Forms that must be completed (Forms can be found on Honors College Website):

Intent to Pursue Honors Form

Honors Contract Forms for courses as needed

Senior Thesis Proposal Form (due the semester before graduation and thesis completion)