

# The Honours Program in Psychology



**Dr. Melissa Boyce, Instructor - PSYC 598**  
**[mboyce@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mboyce@ucalgary.ca)**

**Michelle Vogt, Undergraduate Programs Advisor**  
**[psycugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psycugrd@ucalgary.ca)**

# Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the honours program?
- What is an honours thesis?
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- What is expected in terms of research?
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- What is the undergraduate research conference?

# What is the honours program?

- **An enriched degree program**
  - Extra psychology courses
    - Psyc 305 or 405 (history/theory)
    - Psyc 407 or 411 or 415 (advanced statistics/research methods)
    - Psyc 501 or 503 (seminar/special topics)
    - Psyc 598 (honours thesis and seminar)
  - Research experience
- **Preparation for grad school or professional programs**

# What is an honours thesis?

- A written report of an independent research project
  - Written in APA style: Intro and lit review, Method, Results, Discussion, References, Appendices
  - Normally 30 to 40 pages in length (including title page, abstract, references, figures/tables, appendices)
  - Due in late April (this year: April 16, 2020)

# Why do I need a supervisor?

- Required by the program
  - We adhere to an apprenticeship model
- Reference letter
  - Supervisor will be most informed about your research experience and abilities
- Must be either a faculty member in Psychology or an adjunct faculty member in Psychology

# What does my supervisor do?

- Guides your project from start to finish
- Helps you with the ethics application
- Arranges access to special populations, if required
- Helps with data analysis and interpretation
- Provides feedback on written work
- You should plan/expect to meet regularly
  - See student-supervisor checklist for other expectations

# How do I find a supervisor?

- Check out potential supervisors on department website
  - <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/current-students/undergraduate/honours-program>
  - Here you can learn about the research interests of faculty and adjunct faculty members
- Email and meet with faculty to discuss possible supervision
  - NEW THIS YEAR: Will need to confirm your supervisor in advance of applying to the honours program
- Be flexible, it's the research experience that counts!



# What is expected in terms of research?

- May create a project from scratch (infrequent)
- May work on a pre-existing/ongoing project
- May negotiate a project with you
- Be flexible, it is the research experience that counts!



# How do I apply for honours?

- Deadline is Saturday, January 23, 2021 (decisions mid-February)
  - Online application form will be made available at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/psychology/current-students/undergraduate/honours-program>
  - If you do not make the GPA cut-offs based on your fall grades, your application *may* be reconsidered after the winter term *if* there is still space in the honours class
- Email form to [psycugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psycugrd@ucalgary.ca)

# Admission requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.5 over most recent 7 FCEs (42 units)
- Minimum GPA of 3.5 over most recent 7 (21 units) PSYC courses
- No Fs over most recent 10 courses (30 units)
- Psyc 300 and 301 minimum B+ average

# Admission requirements

- 3 units from PSYC 400.XX, 415, 425, 427, 430, 435, 478, 504, or 505 completed or enrolled into by application time
- Minimum 24 courses(72 units) completed at time of application
  - You must be able to complete your degree requirements in full during your Honours year
- Signature from a faculty member (regular or adjunct) confirming agreement to supervise you

# What else do I need to know?

- MUST complete the thesis and all courses in the last year of your program
- MUST NOT be on exchange or completing a study abroad during your honours year
- The 501 honours requirement MUST be fulfilled during your honours year
  - You can take an additional 501 if desired

# What else do I need to know?

- PSYC 415 cannot count toward BOTH your advanced statistics and your laboratory course requirements (unless you take more than one such course)
- We DO NOT expect to offer PSYC 411, 407, 415 this spring/summer
- If applying for 2021-2022, see Michelle Vogt this Fall to determine your eligibility

# Required documents (in addition to application form)

- Transcript(s)
  - And After-Degree Assessment if you are an after-degree student
- Academic CV/Resumé
- Statement of intent (one page)
  - Why are you applying to the honours program?
  - What are your research interests and why are you interested in them?
  - Why do you want to work with your chosen supervisor?

# What is the honours seminar (PSYC 598)?

- Meets twice per week (75 minutes)
- Information sessions
  - Applying to grad school/scholarships
  - Applying for ethics approval, using the Research Participation System
  - Tips on preparing research presentations, writing a thesis, preparing a poster, etc.
- Each student gives at least two presentations
- Seminar is worth 15% of the final grade



# What is the undergraduate research conference?

- Annual showcase of honours student research
  - April 30, 2021 (tentative)
- All honours students present
  - Talk or poster
- Friends, family, faculty, and students invited



# Where can I get more information?

- Psychology web site: <https://psyc.ucalgary.ca/>
- Michelle Vogt ([psycugrd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psycugrd@ucalgary.ca))
- Undergraduate Director ([psychdir@ucalgary.ca](mailto:psychdir@ucalgary.ca))
- Me ([mboyce@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mboyce@ucalgary.ca))