The Honours Program in Psychology

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Frequently Asked Questions

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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](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
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)

• Undergraduate Director (psychdir@ucalgary.ca)

• Me (mboyce@ucalgary.ca)