

Psychology Honors Program for Psychology and Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience (BCN) Majors

This information will be helpful for students planning to participate in the Senior Psychology Honors Program. Additional questions can be directed to program staff at psych.honors@umich.edu.

Suggested Timeline

Freshman Year

- Get involved with research early!
- Ways to find research projects:
 - ◆ UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program). For information about UROP visit their website, <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/urop/>.
 - ◆ Consult the Faculty Research Areas section of the Psychology website at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/people/faculty-research/UMPsychFacultyResearchAreas.pdf>
 - ◆ Consult the Psychology Research Listing at <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/research/opportunities/>
 - ◆ Attend special lectures and brown-bags. Visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/events/department/> for a complete schedule.
- Begin taking introductory and breadth courses.

Sophomore Year

- Schedule a concentration advising appointment to check progress toward concentration credits.
- Continue with research experience. If you do not wish to continue current research as a thesis project, this is a good time to explore other options. Some faculty members will want you in their lab for a semester or two before they will commit to working on a thesis project with you.
- Plan to take Statistics requirement and elective courses.
- Maintain 3.4 overall GPA.

Junior Year

- Schedule a concentration advising appointment to check progress toward concentration credits.
- Take lab course(s) and elective courses.
- Maintain 3.4 overall GPA
- By winter term, you should have a thesis plan with a faculty mentor and should apply to the Psychology Honors Program.

Important Notes:

- Honors thesis projects must be completed and receive an acceptable honors designation prior to a degree being conferred. The college will not retroactively award an honors degree.
- Students must maintain a 3.4 overall GPA through the final semester to be awarded an honors degree.

Senior Year

- The semester before your project starts, talk with your thesis mentor to make sure your project is submitted for IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval, if needed. The IRB approval process can be lengthy and could delay the start of your project.
- *Semester I – Data Collection Semester*
 - ◆ Meet with your thesis mentor and set up clear goals for the semester. Because the first semester is usually the data collection semester, you should set clear guidelines for how your mentor will evaluate your success for the semester and how your grade will be determined (each semester of honors is graded even though there is no thesis project at the end of the first semester).
 - ◆ Try to meet with your thesis mentor on a regular basis.
 - ◆ Other things that can be completed in the first semester:
 - Literature review
 - The Method section of the thesis
 - Preliminary data analysis
- *Semester II – Writing and Revising Semester*
 - ◆ Meet with thesis mentor to again, set goals for the semester and how you will be graded (this is slightly easier since the thesis will be complete at the end of the term).
 - ◆ Try to meet with your thesis mentor on a regular basis.
- *Semester II – Timeline*
 - ◆ January-February (September-October for December graduates) – complete final analyses and begin writing draft of thesis. Set deadlines with mentor on when they want to see different stages of the thesis project.
 - ◆ March 1 (November 1 for December graduates) – a semi-complete draft of the thesis project should be finished. March 1 and November 1 should be target dates in which the thesis draft is given to the thesis mentor for review. This allows the mentor 1-2 weeks to review the thesis and get back to the student in time for revisions to be made by the April 1 (December 1 for December graduates) thesis submission deadline.
 - Note: If data is still being collected into the second semester, honors students should contact the Honors Director so that a tentative plan can be made that will keep the student on track to graduate on-time.
 - ◆ April 1 (December 1 for December graduates) – Final thesis submission.
 - ◆ Thesis projects are sent to faculty evaluators and students should receive notification of their final honors designation 3-4 weeks after thesis submission.
 - ◆ Mid-April – present in the Annual Research Forum (poster presentation)

❖ **Resources Available:**

- Psychology Department Awards - <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/awards/>
- Stats Consulting - <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/psych/undergrad/resources/advising/info/>
- LSA Honors Awards - <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/honors/current/awards.htm>
- American Psychological Association (APA) – www.apa.org

Contact Us:

Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office
1343 East Hall, 734.764.2580
psych.honors@umich.edu

Ram Mahalingam, Program Director
Saroya Jamal, Program Coordinator