

The Honours Program in Psychology

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Important resources

- **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH HANDBOOK** (research opportunities webpage)
- **STUDENT-SUPERVISOR CHECKLIST** (email psychdir@ucalgary.ca)



Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the honours program?
- What is an honours thesis?
- Why do I need a supervisor?
- What does my supervisor do?
- How do I find a supervisor?
- What is expected in terms of research?
- How do I apply for honours?
- What is the honours seminar (PSYC 598)?
- What is the undergraduate research conference?



What is the honours program?

- **An enriched degree program**
 - extra psychology courses (9.5 – 12.0 FCE)
 - 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)
 - gain research experience
- **Preparation for graduate 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, Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Appendices
 - Normally 30 to 40 pages in length (including title page, abstract, references, tables, appendices)
 - Due in late April (this year: April 13, 2018)



Why do I need a supervisor?

- Required by the program
- An **apprenticeship model**
- Person who is most informed about your research experience and abilities (reference letter)
- 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 req'd
- 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**
 - (<http://psyc.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/degree-programs/honours/potential-supervisors>)
- Learn about the research interests of professors (regular faculty or adjunct faculty)
- Email and meet with professors to discuss options and opportunities available
- **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
- Negotiate a project with you
- **Be flexible**, it is the research experience that counts



How do I apply for honours?

- Deadline is **January 23, 2017** (decisions **mid-February**)
 - 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
 - Online application form available at <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/forms-and-documents>
- Email form to psycugrd@ucalgary.ca



Admission requirements

- **Minimum GPA of 3.40 over most recent 7 FCEs (42 units)**
- **Minimum GPA of 3.4 over all PSYC courses in the most recent 5 FCE (30 units)**
- **No Fs over the most recent 5 FCE (30 units)**
- **Psyc 312 completed by end of W17; minimum B+**



Admission requirements

- **Minimum 12.0 FCEs (72 units) completed**; you must be able to complete your degree requirements *in full* during your Honours year
- A **faculty member** (regular or adjunct) **willing 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 be on campus for the full academic year (no exchanges or study abroad terms)**
- **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?

- A given advanced statistics course (e.g., 411, 407, 415) **cannot count toward both your advanced statistics and your laboratory course requirements** (unless you take more than one such course)
- We are not offering PSYC 411 this spring/summer
- *If applying for 2017-2018, 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/Resume**
- **Statement of intent (one page)**
 - **Why the honours program?**
 - **What are your research interests and why are you interested in them?**
 - **Why do you want to work with the supervisors you have identified as potential supervisors?**



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 RPS
 - Tips on preparing 3MT and research presentations, writing a thesis, preparing a poster, writing the GRE, etc.
- **Each student gives three presentations**
- **Seminar is worth 15% of the final grade**



What is the undergraduate research conference?

- Annual showcase of honours student research
- April 27, 2018
- All honours students present (talk, poster, 3MT)
- Friends, family, faculty and students invited





Where can I get more information?

- Psychology web site
- Psychology Office
(Admin 255)
- Michelle Vogt
- psycugrd@ucalgary.ca
- psychdir@ucalgary.ca

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psyc.ucalgary.ca

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Featured Publication of the Month

Openness to (reporting) experiences that we never had: Overclaiming as an outcome of the knowledge accumulated through a proclivity for cognitive and aesthetic exploration.

October, 2016

Dunlop, P. D., Bourdage, J. S., de Vries, R. E., Hilbig, B. E., Zettler, I., & Ludeke, S. G. (2016).

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Events Department November 9, 2

Admission Requirements

Admission Requirements for 2018/2019

Academic excellence is the main requirement, but to be successful, students must also be self-motivated and hard working. The thesis research project requires students to work relatively independently and to commit the time needed to satisfactorily complete the project. Many students enjoy this opportunity to develop their research skills.

The admission requirements for the Honours Program are listed on this webpage by end of September each year. The criteria for applications due **January 23, 2018** are:

1. at least 72 units or 12.0 full-course equivalents (FCE) completed at the **time of application**;
2. minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.4 over the most recent 42 units (7.0 FCE);
3. minimum GPA of 3.4 over all Psychology courses included in the most recent 30 units (5.0 FCE);
4. minimum grade of B+ in PSYC 312 (or 407, 411 or 415);
5. no F's over the most recent 5.0 FCE;
6. all remaining graduation requirements for the BA/BSc Honours degree can be completed during the following Fall/Winter registration period;
7. eligible thesis supervisor willing to supervise the honours thesis and resources available to complete the thesis
8. minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 over all courses applicable towards the completion of the degree requirements to graduate with honours.

About the University

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