**2025 PSYCHOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM**

Students in the Psychology Honors Program will have the opportunity to make a contribution to the science of psychology and at the same time gain valuable research, thinking, and writing skills. Honors students can expect responsibilities, work, challenges, and freedom far beyond what is ordinarily granted psychology majors. Successful completion of the program will hinge upon a student being capable of both absorbing the additional workload and producing a thesis with the guidance of a faculty or post Master’s graduate student mentor.

The rewards upon successful completion of the program include:

1. A student will receive training in designing, conducting, and analyzing research, all experiences beyond those normally given to psychology majors.
2. Students can meet Gen Ed requirements for High Impact Practices (HIP) by completing the second semester seminar, PSY 4974.
3. The student's transcript will, upon successful completion of the Honors Program requirements, state that the student graduated with Honors in Psychology.
4. The student's Honors thesis will be kept in the Psychology Department for posterity.

Requirements for completion of the Honors Program in Psychology include:

1. Willingness and ability to be available on the Tampa campus during the day both spring and fall semesters in order to attend a weekly seminar, meet with an advisor, and prepare and conduct a study. Honors students should expect to devote between 12 and 18 hours a week to their projects each semester, and in most cases, students should also plan to put in time over the summer.
2. Completion of the major requirements in Psychology with a GPA of 3.5 or better.
3. Completion of 3 hours of PSY 4932 (Honors Seminar) and 3 hours of PSY 4974 (Honors Seminar, second semester).
4. Completion of 6 hours of PSY 4970 (Honors Thesis), 3 hours each semester. With the permission of the director of the Honors Program, a student may register for only 1 hour second semester if he/she has already received at least 3 hours of Directed Study (PSY 4913) credit previously.
   1. Honors College students can enroll entirely through PSY 4970. The Honors College will count Psychology Honors theses toward the Honors College thesis requirement. It is not necessary to enroll in additional hours through the Honors College.

The last two requirements involve the preparation and completion of a thesis.

**Program Structure**

During the first semester of the program the student will participate in the Honors Seminar and also register for Honors Thesis. In the seminar, students will develop the skills necessary to design a study and produce a proposal. Students will practice critically analyzing research, learn what the proposal should contain, and review techniques for doing a literature review and writing in APA style. In addition, students will spend a significant amount of time developing and fine-tuning the ideas for their thesis. Students will summarize articles that are relevant to their interests and lead class discussions about articles that are relevant to their thesis topic. Students will present their ideas to the class as they develop, and critically analyze the ideas of their classmates. The first semester culminates with the writing of a research proposal, and presentation of the proposal to a committee. Projects will involve original research or analyses of existing data, and should utilize empirical psychology designs and methods such as true experiments, quasi-experiments, correlational designs, archival analyses, naturalistic observation, behavioral or psychophysiological methods, or surveys. Students also prepare a proposal for submission to the Institutional Review Board or IACUC, as appropriate.

The Honors Thesis aspect of the first semester involves the student working with his/her advisor in both the preparation of the thesis proposal and in learning the research techniques necessary to carry out the work. The proposal will consist of a literature review, a proposed method and set of analyses, references, and an appendix with instruments (if applicable).

THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND HIS/HER THESIS PROPOSAL BEFORE A COMMITTEE BY THE END OF THE SPRING (FIRST) SEMESTER. FAILURE TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NECESSITATE DROPPING THE STUDENT FROM THE PROGRAM.

During the second (fall) semester, the Honors Seminar has two main components. The first involves the development of skills necessary for conducting and analyzing research. Students discuss issues and concerns as they learn to conduct their studies, set up a computer database, and use a computerized statistical package to analyze their data, among other things. In some cases, students will have collected their data over summer. Second, students will complete the writing of their thesis and present their projects for critiques and discussion, and ultimately they will defend their thesis in front of a committee. Many also prepare presentations for regional or national conferences in collaboration with their advisors and begin to think about preparing manuscripts for publication. Again this semester, students are expected to register for Honors Thesis hours.

**Credit Hours and Graduation Requirements**

Participation in the Honors Program does not completely satisfy the elective requirements in the Psychology major (3 or 4 4000-level courses). A student may count up to 3 hours of PSY 4970 (Honors Thesis) for Psychology elective credit; however, no more than three hours of PSY 4913, Directed Study, or PSY 4970, Honors Thesis, may count for major credit.  PSY 4974 (Honors Seminar – Second Semester) meets the Gen Ed HIP requirement but does not count for Psychology major credit.  Thus, students in the Honors Program may graduate with more than the 34 required hours in psychology and more than the 120 hours required for graduation.

**Admission Criteria and Procedures**

Admission to the Psychology Department Honors Program occurs once a year in the fall for the program that begins in the spring semester. Admission is competitive based upon information contained in the application. The requirements listed below are minimum ones and do not guarantee admission. Admission decisions will be made by a committee of Psychology Department faculty members.

Requirements for admission to the Psychology Department Honors Program are:

1. Completion of the following courses with a grade point average of at least 3.5.

**PSY 2012 – Introduction to Psychological Science**

**PSY 3213 – Research Methods**

**One course each from the “Cognitive and Neural Sciences” (formerly called “Experimental”) and “Social/Applied” groups of the 4000-level requirement** (see <https://catalog.usf.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=13&poid=5455> for lists of courses in these groups).

1. No less than a **B in PSY 2012 and PSY 3213**.
2. An overall **USF grade point average of 3.2**.
3. Agreement by a Psychology Department faculty member, a post-masters graduate student, or Psychology Department affiliate faculty (e.g., faculty member from FMHI or with a courtesy appointment in Psychology) to serve as advisor on the thesis. This mentor should indicate his/her willingness in a letter of recommendation.

In addition, there are other factors that will enhance the likelihood of admission to the program:

1. Completion of PSY 4205 (Experimental Design and Analysis) with no less than a B.
2. Prior research experience.

An application form can be found on the next page.

**APPLICATION FORM**

**PSYCHOLOGY HONORS PROGRAM, 2025**

Please type or print legibly

NAME:

Phone:

USF EMAIL ADDRESS (required)\*:

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR APPLICATION THE FOLLOWING:

1. A **letter of recommendation** from a member of the USF Psychology Department faculty, graduate student (post-masters) or an affiliate of the USF Psychology Department indicating agreement to serve as your advisor. The letter should address your qualifications relevant to the Honors Program and, if possible, some information regarding the planned honors project. It should be sent directly to Jennifer Bosson, [jbosson@usf.edu](mailto:jbosson@usf.edu).
2. If your advisor is not in a position to sufficiently comment on your qualifications, please include a **second letter of recommendation** with your application.
3. A 1-2 page, **typed statement** of your qualifications for the Honors Program and your career- and research-related goals. This statement should include the name of the faculty member or graduate student who has agreed to serve as your advisor and a line summarizing your preliminary thesis topic, if possible. Ideally, this statement will also summarize any prior research or psychology-related work experiences, or any research-related skills that you have.
4. A print out of your most recent **DegreeWorks audit** (not a transcript). **Next to each USF Psychology course, please list the name of your instructor. Highlight PSY 2012 (or equivalent), PSY 3204 (or equivalent such as STA 2023, STA 2122, or QMB 2100), PSY 3213, any 4000-level course that satisfies a “Cognitive and Neural Sciences” (formerly “Experimental”) or “Social/Applied” requirement, and PSY 4205 (if applicable).**
5. A **sample of your writing**. Preferably, this should be a recent term paper from a research discipline. For example, a paper from your Research Methods class would be appropriate. Your personal statement will not meet this requirement.

**ALL YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO JENNIFER BOSSON at** [**jbosson@usf.edu**](mailto:jbosson@usf.edu)**.**

**REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS BEGINS NOV. 1, 2024**

**AND CONTINUES UNTIL THE SEMINAR IS FULL**

**OR THE START OF THE SPRING SEMESTER.**