Honors Theses in Psychology (rev. Aug 2017)

An Honors Thesis in Psychology is a project of original empirical research, that adds to existing knowledge in the discipline. As such, the projects are most successful when students work with tenure-track research faculty to devise a project that is both manageable and productive.

We recommend that students planning to complete a Psychology Honors Thesis do so by participating in the Psychology Honors Sequence, which is a strong departmental program designed to guide and support students through the entire process of completing a Psychology Honors Theses.

The Psychology Honors Thesis Sequence includes a two-semester seminar [PSY 497] for students developing and completing Thesis projects in a calendar year. A new sequence begins each January, with applications due in November (the Friday before Thanksgiving). Along with the seminar, students enroll in advanced statistics (PSY 330) and directed study with the faculty member who serves as their thesis advisor. The Sequence (including the seminar) is strongly recommended for Psychology majors aiming to go on to graduate school and professional study. (There are separate documents describing the Honors Thesis Sequence in more detail.).

Alternative pathway:
If a student applies to do a Psychology Thesis outside the Honors Sequence, they have the same expectations for preparation and the same requirements for committee structure. If these expectations are not met, then students can complete an alternative honors project using the prefix of HON.

All students wishing to complete a Psychology Honors Thesis (using PSY prefix) need complete an application process, to ensure that they have completed preparation by the time they propose starting a thesis. For those who do the recommended sequence, applications are in November (by the Friday before Thanksgiving) to begin the sequence in January. Students should include all preparation in progress that will be completed before the Spring semester.

All students aspiring to complete a Psychology Honors Thesis should:

1) PREPARE tool skills and background. Before beginning a thesis, students should complete:
   a. PSY230 (or PSY 231, preferred) and PSY 290; with a GPA of 3.4
   b. Six (6) credit hours of upper division PSY content courses (more is encouraged) with a GPA of 3.5
   c. At least one empirical research experience, beyond PSY290 or other in-class experience. This is usually done by PSY 399 study with Psychology faculty.

2) APPLY Students need to complete the application to complete a PSY 492/493 (attached)
   a. For students joining the recommended sequence, there is no need to identify a mentor ahead of time
   b. For students proposing to do a Psychology Honors Thesis (PSY492/3) outside the recommended sequence:
      i. In addition to completing the application to confirm preparation, they need to identify the faculty mentor who will supervise the project and get a signature from that faculty member confirming, and
      ii. The student needs to acknowledge the expectations as to committee composition, and requirement of PSY 330 (Advanced Statistics), as well as the Barrett requirements for dates.
      iii. Applications need to be submitted prior to registering for PSY 492, no later than the first day of classes.

3) COMPLETE the thesis project.
   a. For students in the recommended seminar sequence these elements will be managed in the class
   b. For students doing theses outside the sequence: note expectations for PSY theses:
      i. Committees consist of three members, all with PhDs. The first reader/mentor should be a tenure-line faculty in the Psychology Department at ASU (Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor). Other committee members should have active research programs (faculty preferred). The third member of the committee should be someone who provides an independent perspective (not involved in thesis research project).
      ii. Before enrolling in PSY 493, students must complete (a) PSY 330 Advanced Statistics and (b) a formal prospectus document detailing the Honors project
      iii. On completion of the prospectus paper (in the semester enrolled for PSY 492) and the defense (in the semester enrolled for PSY493), students need to have their mentor contact the Director of the Honors program with the appropriate grade recommendation.

If a psychology major proposes theses work under the supervision of a faculty member in another department, then the expectation would be that the honors project would be completed using the prefix of that other department, unless the student arranged for, and was approved for, to have a Psychology tenure line faculty member as co-director.
Application for completing a Psychology Honors Thesis (rev. 8/17)

I am applying to complete an Honors Thesis in Psychology (PSY 492/493)

1) _____ As part of the Honors Sequence, with two semester seminar (spring and fall)

Applications for the sequence due by the Friday before Thanksgiving

2) _____ Outside of the sequence, without the seminar [completed applications due before start of semester with PSY 492].

Name: ______________________________ ASU ID#: ________________________ Date ____________

E-mail address: _____________________________ Phone #: _________________________

Mailing Address: _____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Overall GPA: ______ Are you a declared Psychology Major? _____ (priority given to Tempe Psychology majors)
Which ASU degree program?
Tempe (CLAS): BA- Psychology _____ BS –Psychology _____ BS-Concentration in Psychol. Science____
Other Psychology degree program at ASU (list) __________
Additional concurrent (non-Psychology) major(s): ___________________

Hours completed @ ASU: _____ ASU GPA: ________ Transfer Hours: _____ From: ______________________

For what semester do you plan to take PSY 492 ______ PSY 493 ______ (Thesis seminar begins each spring semester)
When do you plan to graduate? __Fall 20________ __Spring 20________

Expectations for preparation for the Honors Thesis Sequence (A, B, and C):

A) Completed fundamental courses [minimum GPA of 3.4 in PSY 230/231 (prefer 231) and PSY 290]

For each of the Fundamental courses listed below indicate when you completed (or plan to complete) the course, the name of the instructor, and the grade you received. Indicate which of these was completed as an Honors Course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Honors</th>
<th>On Line?</th>
<th>Instructor (and where taken if not ASU)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>PGS/PSY 101: Intro. To Psychology</td>
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<td>PSY 230/231: Statistical Methods</td>
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<td>PSY 290: Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 330: Advanced Statistics</td>
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<td>(Recommended-co-requisite of PSY 497)</td>
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B) Completed at least six (6) credit hours of upper division Psychology Content courses offered by the Department of Psychology (Tempe)*, with a minimum GPA of 3.5 expected. Please list all Psychology courses at or above 300 level (do not include PSY399/499, or other non-content courses)

*On-line from other ASU programs do not count toward the six hours minimum.

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor (and where if not ASU)</th>
<th>Semester Completed</th>
<th>On Line?</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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C) Completed some empirical research experience beyond a PSY 290-type research experience, usually a 399/499 study with Psychology Faculty. (Note: research in PSY 290 or embedded class projects do not satisfy this expectation) Provide the name(s) of the faculty or other supervising researcher, with whom you have worked on research (beyond PSY 290 level).

Researcher(s): _____________________________________________________________

**Description of Research Experience:** Describe your experience(s) conducting psychological research (other than PSY 290 project)? Please describe the research project (e.g., What was the research question?) that you worked on with the instructor or research supervisor you named above and what your role in the project was. Also briefly describe any other research projects on which you have worked.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What are your career goals and plans for after graduation?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

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**If you are applying to complete a Psychology Honors Thesis outside the sequence,** you need to identify a thesis advisor (who is a tenure track faculty member in the Psychology Department --Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor) before you register for PSY 492. In addition to completing the rest of application, please also sign to confirm:

- I understand that **before** registering for PSY 493, I must
  - complete PSY 330 (with a B or better) and
  - submit a paper with a thesis prospectus (this is the product of the PSY 492 semester)
- Further for the thesis defense, I will need a committee of three (as described in handout).
- I will ensure that the information about completion of the PSY492/493 are submitted.

Student Name: ___________________  Student Signature: __________________________

Who is your Thesis Advisor?  Name: ___________________________________________

Signature of Thesis Advisor to confirm the arrangements: __________________________

[Your Thesis advisor needs to be a.]

*Return this application to Clark Presson, Director of Honors Program, Department of Psychology, either electronically to presson@asu.edu, or in paper to Room 216 in the Psychology building (or to the main Psychology office). If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Dr. Presson, 480-965-1617 [presson@asu.edu]. Applications for seminar sequence due by Friday before Thanksgiving. Out of sequence applications are due by beginning of semester registering for PSY 492.*