



TOWSON UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT HONORS THESIS PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology offers an undergraduate honors thesis option that provides students an opportunity to learn in-depth about the research process in psychology. Students complete an independent thesis in close collaboration with a faculty mentor, while taking a series of courses on research methods and analysis, thesis preparation, and professional presentation. The three-term program (12 units) culminates in the student's senior year with the completion of the thesis and presentation of the findings in a symposium format. **Students will be admitted to the program the spring of their junior year**, after completing an application packet and meeting with the Psychology Honors Program Director, Dr. Maria Fracasso (410-704-3449; fracasso@towson.edu), assuming they satisfy the admission requirements listed below.

SEQUENCE OF COURSES:

Apply: Fall Semester of Student's Junior year: by last Friday in October.

Term One – Spring of the Student's Junior Year

- **PSYC 486 Advanced Experimental Design** (3 units): Development of research proposals, including the literature review, proposed method and data analysis. Emphasis on use of appropriate format and style, both written and oral presentation of material.

Term Two – Fall of the Student's Senior Year

- **PSYC 497 Honors Seminar in Psychology** (3 units): Data collection and planning for descriptive and inferential statistical methods while also learning about ethical, professional development, and current issues across the field of psychology.

Term Three – Spring of the Student's Senior Year

- **PSYC 498 Honors Capstone in Psychology** (3 units): Presentation of the final thesis project before the honors thesis cohort, thesis committee, and invited guests. Students who successfully complete the honors thesis option will receive the designation of Departmental Honors on the student's transcript.
- **PSYC 499 Honors Senior Thesis in Psychology** (3 units): Work in close collaboration with a faculty mentor identified previous to their matriculation in the program.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

For a student to be admitted to the Psychology Honors Thesis Program, the following criteria must be met by the spring term of the junior year:

1. Completion of PSYC212 and PSYC314 (or 213/313) with a minimum grade of "B" (3.0) in both courses.
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and a Psychology GPA of 3.5.
3. Identification of a Psychology Department faculty member who will supervise the senior's thesis (this can be done with the help of the Honors Thesis Program Director).
4. Completion of the honors program application packet, including an essay about their reasons for wanting to be part of the honors program and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.
5. Individual interview with Honors Thesis Program Director to determine the student's ability to complete the Honors Program.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

If you meet these requirements, stop by the Psychology Department (LA2210) to pick up an application or download an application (Psychology Webpage: <https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/undergrad/psychology.html>).

Email your application to Dr. Fracasso (fracasso@towson.edu) NO LATER THAN the last Friday in October.

QUESTIONS? To have any additional questions answered, please email Dr. Fracasso, at fracasso@towson.edu.