



TOWSON UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM

The Department of Psychology offers an undergraduate honors 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 advanced 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:

Fall Semester of Student's Junior year: apply for program by mid-October

Term One – Spring of the Student's Junior Year

- PSYC 486 Advanced Experimental Design (3 units)

Term Two – Fall of the Student's Senior Year

- PSYC 497 Honors Seminar in Psychology (3 units)

Term Three – Spring of the Student's Senior Year

- PSYC 498 Honors Capstone in Psychology (2 units)
- PSYC 499 Honors Senior Thesis in Psychology (4 units)

In the spring of their Junior Year, students will take **PSYC 486: Advanced Experimental Design**, providing them advanced statistical and methodological tools they need to complete an independent thesis project. During their senior year, students will complete their thesis project in close collaboration with a research mentor, while taking a sequence of courses to take them through the thesis process. These courses will include a fall semester 3-unit course, **PSYC 497: Honors Seminar in Psychology**, a seminar style course in which students will receive help in completing all steps of their thesis while also learning about ethical, professional development, and current issues across the field of psychology. During their final semester, students will sign up for a 4-unit **PSYC 499: Honors Senior Thesis in Psychology** course, completed in close collaboration with a faculty mentor identified previous to their matriculation in the program. During the second semester of their senior year, students will also sign up for a 2-unit **PSYC 498: Honors Capstone in Psychology** course in which they will get an opportunity to present their final thesis project before their classmates, thesis committee, and invited guests (a requirement of an Honors Thesis according to the Honors College). Students who successfully complete the honors option will receive the designation Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Psychology on their diploma. Departmental Honors will also appear on the student's transcript.



ADMISSION CRITERIA

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

1. Completion of Psychology 212 and 314 (or 213/313) with a minimum grade of “B” (3.0) or better 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.
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 Dr. Fracasso to determine the student’s ability to complete the Honors Program.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

If you meet these requirements, stop by the Psychology Department Office (LA2210) to pick up an application packet or please to download an application (Psychology Major Webpage: <http://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/psychology/undergrad/documents/honorsthesisapp.pdf>).

Return your application packet to the Psychology Department NO LATER THAN the last Friday in October.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS? To have any additional questions answered, please email Dr. Maria Fracasso, Psychology Honors Program Director, at fracasso@towson.edu.