

The Honors Program in Psychology (2018-19)

The honors program is designed for exceptional senior psychology students who wish to pursue intensive and independent psychological research. The honors program offers students the closest contact and consultation with faculty they will likely experience while at Cornell. Successful participation serves as evidence of the two most important skills required of an academic psychologist: the capacity to integrate theoretical and factual material, and to devise and execute a creative empirical research project. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program graduate with honors noted on their diplomas. Qualified majors who are planning postgraduate work in any field (academic or otherwise) should consider applying.

The research project is conducted under the close mentorship of a faculty member. Honors students will conduct an empirical study, analyze the data, and interpret the results. Students will produce a professional research report and present their project at an Honors Poster session and an oral defense. Conducting honors research and completing a thesis requires both time and effort. Students in the program must register for 3 or 4 credits of Psychology 4710: Independent Study in both Fall and Spring semesters.

Admission to the program is based on the applicant's GPA (3.5 or greater in Psychology courses is typical), previous research experience (at least one semester of independent study), and synopsis of proposed project. A letter of support (i.e., letter of commitment and recommendation) from a proposed mentor is also required. Subject to approval, the mentor need not be in the Psychology department. Previous independent study with the proposed mentor is common and strongly recommended. The student should enroll in Independent Study (PSYCH 4710) with the faculty mentor when applying to the program. The Honors Program Director(s) will evaluate application packages.

All materials should be emailed to the Honors Program Director(s) before the deadlines.

Late submissions will not be considered.

The application form and letter of recommendation are due Wed., August 29th at 4:00 PM

Upon acceptance to the program you are required to complete a formal 8 to 12 page research proposal. This proposal includes both a literature review with at least 10 citations of empirical research articles, an overview of the methods, anticipated results, and potential significance of the proposed work. The proposal must adhere to APA style, as outlined in the 6th edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

The formal research proposal is due Wed., Sept. 12th at 4:00 PM

See the next page for a full list of deadlines and benchmarks.

For any other questions contact the Director of the Honors Program, Dr. Amy Krosch (amy.krosch@cornell.edu).

The Honors Program in Psychology (2018-19)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND BENCHMARKS Refer to the Handbook for additional information.

FALL

- Wed., Aug. 29** The application form and letter of recommendation are due by 4pm.
- Thurs., Sept. 6** Last day to add PSYCH 4710 without a fee.
- Wed., Sept. 12** The 8-12 page research proposal is due by 4pm.
- Late Oct.** Informational meeting with the directors of the honors program (time and place TBD). Will meet other students in the program and answer questions regarding program details.
- Fri., Nov. 30** Progress report (2-4 pages) is due by 4pm.

SPRING

- Mid Feb.
Date TBD** Informational meeting with the directors of the honors program to discuss committee formation, preparing the poster and thesis, and the oral defense.
- By Fri., Mar. 29** Thesis committee should be formed. Draft of thesis is due to faculty mentor.
- Fri., Apr. 19** Thesis is revised and oral defense is scheduled. Students should provide a copy of the revised thesis to each committee member at least one week before the oral defense.
- By Fri., May 3** Oral thesis defense completed.
- Fri., May 10** Poster printed and ready for you to hang Saturday morning at CUP (the Cornell Undergraduate Psychology conference).
- Fri., May 10** Revisions to the thesis completed and format checked by mentor.
- Tentatively:
Sat., May 11** Poster session at the CUP conference (<https://psychology.cornell.edu/cup-conference>). Attendance is mandatory. Poster presentations are required, talks are not required but strongly recommended
- Fri., May 17** Two bound copies due (one to the mentor and one to Lisa Proper – Uris 211), one emailed copy due to Honors director. Both by 4pm.
- Sun., May 26** Psychology Department graduation ceremony. Students graduating with honors are recognized; Posters are put on display for guests attending the ceremony; T. A. Ryan award recipient is announced.

See the handbook for additional details and useful resources for help with writing your thesis, running statistics, generating graphs, and identifying funding for research.