

The Honors Program in Psychology – Deadlines (2020-21)

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 Mentor. 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.

Given research complications resulting from Covid-19, it may be difficult to collect new data in the 2020-2021 year. Please discuss alternative project ideas with your Faculty Mentor (e.g., re-analysis or meta-analyses of existing data) and contact the Honors Director(s) for approval.

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 if their Faculty Mentor is a member of the Psychology Department. Students with Faculty Mentors in Human Development should take the HD equivalent courses.

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.

An email 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.

All materials should be emailed to the Honors Program Director(s) before the deadlines, upon which the Program Director(s) will evaluate application packages.

The application form and letter of recommendation are due September 18th by 5pm

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 Friday., Oct. 2nd by 5pm

See the next page for a full list of deadlines and benchmarks. For any other questions contact the Directors of the Honors Program, Dr. Amy Krosch (amy.krosch@cornell.edu) and Dr. Laura Niemi (ln279@cornell.edu).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND BENCHMARKS
(refer to the handbook for additional information)

FALL

- Fri., Sept. 18** (by 5pm) **Application and letter of recommendation are due.**
Email to the Director(s)
- Fri., Oct. 2** (by 5pm) **Research proposal is due.**
Email to the Director(s)
- Late Oct.** (date TBD) **Informational meeting** with Honors Director(s) to meet other students in the program, discuss deadlines, expectations, and tips, and to answer any questions regarding program details.
- Fri., Dec. 4** (by 5pm) **Progress report (2-4 pages) is due.** Copies should be emailed to the Faculty Mentor and the Honors Director(s).

SPRING

- Mid Feb.** (date TBD) **Informational meeting** with the director of the honors program to discuss committee formation, preparing the poster and thesis, and the oral defense.
- Fri., Apr. 2** **Thesis committee should be formed, draft of thesis due to Faculty Mentor.**
- Fri., Apr. 23** **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.
- Fri., May 7** **Oral thesis defense completed by this date.**
- Early May** (date TBD) **Mandatory poster session at the [CUP conference](#).** Poster presentations are required, talks are not required but strongly recommended.
- Fri., May 14** **Revisions submitted to the Faculty Mentor.**
- Fri., May 21** (5pm) **Final thesis due.** Two bound copies due: One to the Faculty Mentor and one to Lisa Proper (Uris 211). Emailed copy due to Honors Director(s).
- Sun., May 30** **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.