

# Honors Program in Psychological Sciences



# Requirements

- Major in Psychology
- Major GPA  $\geq 3.50$
- Passed PSY 010
- Passed PSY 015



# Application: Due April 30<sup>th</sup>

email to:  
[ewalle@ucmerced.edu](mailto:ewalle@ucmerced.edu)

Students seeking to apply for the Psychology Honors Program will be encouraged to identify and contact potential faculty supervisors to discuss possible research projects.

- Faculty Advisor
  - Enrollment in the Honors Program requires that a faculty member formally agree to supervise the research conduct of the undergraduate student. In certain instances, a graduate student may be allowed to assist in the supervision of an undergraduate student, but a faculty member must be officially listed as responsible for the research conduct of the undergraduate student. The undergraduate student and supervising faculty member will complete and submit the application provided below.
- 400-word proposal abstract
- Research Project Abstract
- Detailed Project Timeline



# Concurrent Coursework

- *PSY-199 – Independent Research in Psychological Sciences*
  - Students applying to the Honors Program are expected to be a research apprentice in the laboratory of their intended faculty sponsor. Students are strongly advised to begin planning their research project in the spring of their junior year. In addition, students will continue to be a research apprentice in the laboratory during their senior year. Students should be enrolled in the Independent Research course in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- *PSY-193H/194H – Psychological Sciences Honors Seminar*
  - Honors students are also required to concurrently enroll in PSY 193H/194H (3 units per semester), the Honors Seminar, in their senior year. This course provides excellent supplemental background for preparing the thesis.
  - During the fall semester, PSY 193H will concentrate on issues of research design, ethics, and data analysis using statistical packages, as well as how to apply to graduate programs in psychology and career opportunities in psychology and related fields.
  - In the spring semester, PSY 194H will focus on oral and written presentations of the thesis projects and feedback on thesis drafts.

Courses associated with the completion of the Psychology Honors Program (i.e., PSY 193H, PSY 194H, and PSY 199) may be counted as satisfying units needed for the upper division advanced and elective psychology courses.

# Sample Timeline

## Junior Year (Spring)

- Complete all prerequisite course requirements
- Identify thesis topic and faculty sponsor
- Conduct literature review of identified thesis topic
- Submit application

## Summer between Junior and Senior Year

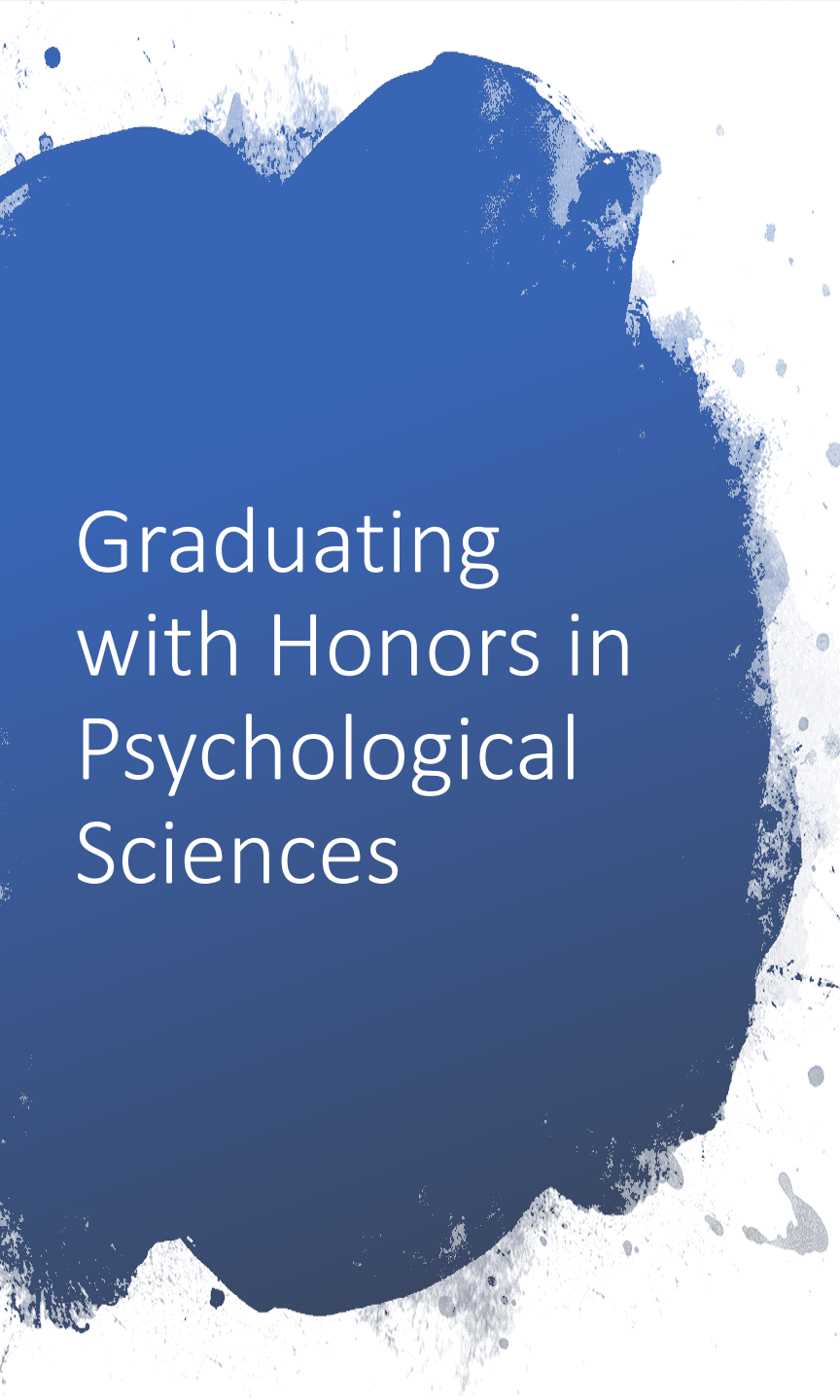
- Design & finalize research study design with faculty supervisor
- Submit project protocol to Institutional Review Board

## Senior Year (Fall)

- Enroll in: PSY 199; PSY 193H
- Submit study protocol to IRB & SONA (if applicable)
- Begin data collection/analysis

## Senior Year (Spring)

- Enroll in: PSY 199; PSY 194H
- Complete data collection/analysis
- Write thesis and submit to faculty sponsor for feedback
- Submit study abstract for inclusion in Honors program
- Prepare and present an academic poster displaying findings at Psychological Sciences Department Honors Session.
- Give an academic talk presenting the honors research in the Honors course
- Submit final honors thesis for approval



# Graduating with Honors in Psychological Sciences

- Major GPA  $\geq 3.50$
  - Cumulative GPA  $\geq 3.30$
  - Satisfactory completion of PSY 193H/194H (B or higher)
  - Submission of a thesis of high quality. Evaluation of the thesis is the primary responsibility of the faculty sponsor, as well as a second reader identified by the faculty sponsor.
  - The sponsor and second reader will decide whether the thesis is of Honors quality and if so, which level of Honors is to be assigned: Honors or Highest Honors.
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- Departmental Honors designations will be included in the student's permanent UC Merced record.

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*APPLICATIONS DUE*  
*April 30<sup>th</sup>*

email to: [ewalle@ucmerced.edu](mailto:ewalle@ucmerced.edu)

Questions?