Honors Program General Information

The Psychology Department’s Honors Program offers a unique opportunity for outstanding majors to gain an intense **research experience** in the sub-area of psychology of their choosing. In collaboration with a faculty sponsor, honors students can assist with an empirical research project, collect and analyze data, and write a thesis presenting their findings. Upon completion of the research, students participate in an oral presentation of their thesis in the Psychology 4000 class, which is the second semester of the two-semester sequence of honors seminars.

Students take part in a **two-semester course sequence:**

**PSY 3000 [Honors Seminar I, 3 credits]** will be taken in the first semester of the honors program, which can be fall semester of the student’s Junior or Senior year. Students begin their project in collaboration with a faculty advisor and explore contemporary issues in the science of psychology in class. In most cases, the project will be a research study of some sort, but it can also be a theoretical paper or major literature review. The Honors seminar is limited to students officially enrolled in the honors program and is kept small so as to ensure opportunity for lively discussion and exchange of ideas.

**PSY 3100 [Statistical Models in Psychology, 4 credits]** will be taken in the first semester of the honors program. This class is designed to give student advanced knowledge in statistical analysis and research methods that will be useful in conducting their thesis work.

**PSY 4000 [Honors Seminar II, 1 credit]** is taken in the Spring semester immediately following completion of PSY 3000. Students complete their research projects and meet as a class with the honors coordinator for 1 hour each week. The class, and the student’s honors program, is completed with an oral presentation in class. Prerequisite: PSY 3000 (with a grade no lower than a B), PSY 3100.

**To be considered for the program, you must have:**

- Junior status by the beginning of the program - Overall GPA of 3.4 or above

- Declared major in psychology - Psychology GPA of 3.5 or above

- Completed PSY 2110 with a grade of B- or better

- Sponsorship by a psychology department faculty member

- You will also submit a personal statement (see application form for specific details on required content).

Our intent is to model the honors program very closely after the kinds of experiences usually reserved for graduate study. Students who have completed the program typically report that it was an invaluable preparation for their later graduate study; indeed many report that it was the highlight of their education at UCCS. Through the recommendation of the faculty of the Psychology Department, the successful honor student's degree diploma will bear the citation **"With High Distinction in Psychology."**

Questions? Contact Dr. Tom Pyszczynski, Interim Honors Program Director (tpyszczy@uccs.edu).

Honors Program Application Form

**Name:**

**UCCS Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipated Graduation (semester, year):**

**Psychology GPA:**

**Overall GPA:**

**Declared major(s):**

**Declared minor (if applicable):**

**Completed PSY 2110? (circle one):** YES NO

**Grade in PSY 2100 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*Faculty Mentor:**

\* If you have not confirmed a mentor, please list faculty mentor(s) with whom you would be interested in working. You are encouraged to communicate with potential faculty mentors before submitting your

application. Not all faculty mentors are available, so please be prepared to contact multiple people.

**Personal Statement:** On a separate page, provide a personal statement describing your educational and career goals and how the Psychology Honors Program will help you achieve those goals. Additionally, if you do not meet the stated admissions criteria, comment on that fact (e.g., explain unusual circumstances, show that your GPA has improved, etc.) and use a portion of this statement to include information about your strategies for succeeding in this program. Keep in mind that strong writing skills are essential for successful completion of the program, so your personal statement will serve as a writing sample to be evaluated by the Honors Program Director as **part of our admission criteria**. Your personal statement should be typed and no longer than 1 page single-spaced (or 2 pages double-spaced).

**Application Deadline**: To be considered for admission to the Honors Program starting in Fall Semester

2022, please submit this completed application form, along with your personal statement to Dr. Tom Pyszczynski by **April 30, 2022**. Submit by email to tpyszczy@uccs.edu. You will be notified of your admissions status by May 15, 2022.