



# Psychology Honours Thesis Information Session 2026

# Contact Information

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# The Plan

- ▶ The Honours Thesis
- ▶ Admission Requirements
- ▶ Application Process
- ▶ Finding a Faculty Supervisor



# The Honours Thesis

- ▶ Coursework vs. Thesis option for Honours degree
- ▶ Honours thesis more than just ‘big paper’
- ▶ Workload is high!
  - ▶ PSYC 4020D = ~16 hours (on average) per week for two semesters

# An Honours Thesis Student Must...

(with support but it's your work)

- ▶ Participate in thesis seminars throughout year
- ▶ Search for, read, and review relevant literature
- ▶ Plan a study
- ▶ Write a substantial thesis proposal
- ▶ Collect data (though not always) and analyze data
- ▶ Report results via written and oral presentations

# PSYC 4010Y vs. 4020D

## ▶ PSYC 4010Y

- ▶ Joint Honours Thesis with PSYC and another program

- ▶ one credit from PSYC

- ▶ one from the other program

- ▶ e.g., CHYS, FRSC

## ▶ PSYC 4010Y **not required** for joint PSYC majors

- ▶ Can complete **PSYC 4020D**

# The Honours Thesis (cont'd)

- ▶ A must if applying to *graduate program* in psychology
- ▶ Good idea if *unsure* about future (keeps options open)
- ▶ Not necessary for professional program (but depends, e.g., SLP at UofT)

# Admission Requirements

- ▶ For PSYC 4020D
  - ▶ At least 75% in PSYC 3016H & 3017H (or PSYC 3015Y)
  - ▶ At least 0.5 credit from each of A2, B2, A3, B3 categories (see next slide)
  - ▶ 75% or higher in all PSYC courses
  - ▶ Permission of Psychology Department
- ▶ Some faculty have specific prerequisites of content courses, etc.

A2	A3	B2	B3
PSYC 2200H	PSYC 3210H	PSYC 2300H	PSYC 3300H
PSYC 2210H	PSYC 3220H	PSYC 2310H	PSYC 3500H
PSYC 2400H	PSYC 3230H	PSYC 2550H	PSYC 3510H
PSYC 2600H	PSYC 3240H	PSYC 2700H	PSYC 3550H
	PSYC 3430H		PSYC 3560H
	PSYC 3440H		PSYC 3590H
	PSYC 3451H		PSYC 3710H
	PSYC 3460H		PSYC 3725H
	PSYC 3610H		PSYC 3730H
	PSYC 3790H (new)		PSYC 3740H
			PSYC 3750H
			PSYC 3760H
			PSYC 3770H
(See Academic Calendar)			PSYC 3780H

# Application Process

- ▶ Must apply for PSYC Honours Thesis Program (limited space and must secure a supervisor)
- ▶ Forms available online
- ▶ Application deadline: March 6th, 2026 (first round, notified in late May if accepted, continues into September)
- ▶ Email to:
  - ▶ [psychologydurham@trentu.ca](mailto:psychologydurham@trentu.ca)

# Finding a Faculty Supervisor

- ▶ Look for ‘good fit’ and common interests  
(but be open)
- ▶ Search faculty research  
<https://www.trentu.ca/psychology/faculty-research>
- ▶ 2026-2027 Available Durham GTA  
Department Faculty
  - ▶ Drs. Ben Bauer and Brenda Smith-Chant
- ▶ 2026-2027 Peterborough Department  
Faculty (see Peterborough psychology website)

# Finding a Faculty Supervisor

## ▶ Additional Suggestion

- ▶ Plan to do a research practicum with faculty before doing honours thesis

The background features abstract green geometric shapes. On the left, a solid green triangle points downwards. On the right, a complex arrangement of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons in various shades of green is visible. A thin, light grey line extends from the bottom right towards the center of the page.

Questions?