

Psychology Honours Thesis Information Session 2024



Contact Information

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To be discussed...

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ What is an honours thesis?
- ▶ Why do an honours thesis?
- ▶ Admission requirements
- ▶ Application process
- ▶ Finding a potential supervisor
- ▶ Timeline



What is an honours thesis?

- ▶ Four-Year Honours Degree
 - ▶ Coursework vs. thesis option
- ▶ Thesis is more than just a ‘big paper’
- ▶ Workload is high!
(PSYC 4020D = app. 16 hours per week for 2 semesters)

What is an honours thesis?

- ▶ Thesis requires the student to:
 - ▶ Participate in thesis seminars throughout year
 - ▶ Search, read and review relevant literature
 - ▶ Plan an empirical study
 - ▶ Write a substantial thesis proposal
 - ▶ Collect and analyze data
 - ▶ Report the results via written, oral and poster presentations

PSYC 4010Y vs. 4020D

- ▶ PSYC 4010Y is only for students doing a Joint Honours Thesis with Psychology and another program (1 credit from Psychology, 1 from the other program)
- ▶ If you are interested in PSYC 4010Y contact Laura McMaster in the Psychology Office
 - ▶ Note: You do not have to do a Joint Honours Thesis if you are a joint PSYC major, you are eligible to complete 4020D

Why do an honours thesis?

Good...

- ✓ If you are planning to go on to a graduate program in psychology (or many other social science-based programs)
- ✓ Competitive edge in job market (shows marketable skills)
- ✓ Are unsure of future goals (don't limit your options)
- ✓ Networking with professors, better letters of reference
- ✓ Research is fun, educational and stimulating
- the best educational experience we offer

Admission Requirements

- ▶ For admission to PSYC 4020D
 - ▶ Completed PSYC 3016H and 3017H with 75% final grade.
 - ▶ At least 0.5 credit from each of the A2, B2, A3, and B3 categories (see next slide).
 - ▶ 75% average over all Psychology courses.
 - ▶ Permission of Psychology Department.
- ▶ Some faculty supervisors have specific pre-requisites for content courses, etc.

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A2 Natural Science	A3 Natural Science	B2 Social Science	B3 Social Science
2200H	3210H	2300H	3300H
2210H	3220H	2310H	3500H
2400H	3230H	2550H	3510H
2600H	3240H	2700H	3530H*
	3420H		3550H
	3430H		3560H
	3440H		3590H
	3451H		3710H
	3460H		3725H
	3610H		3730H
			3740H
			3750H
			3760H
			3770H
			3780H

**no longer offered*

Application process

- ▶ You must apply for the Psychology Honours Thesis Program.
- ▶ Forms are available from the Psychology Office and online.
- ▶ Limited space.
- ▶ Application deadline: **March 1st, 2024, by 12:00 noon**
 - ▶ email to lauramcmaster@trentu.ca, in the Psychology Office, DNA/LHS C 104.

Finding a potential faculty supervisor

Thoughts....

- ▶ Your academic career begins in undergraduate studies,
 - ▶ Important - be professional and respectful with your colleagues and professors.
- ▶ Networking is an important skill.
 - ▶ in life and in getting into graduate programs - start now!
- ▶ Approach faculty whose research work interests you.

Finding a potential faculty supervisor

Specifics....

- ▶ Identify faculty members with whom you are most interested in working.
- ▶ Look for a 'good fit' personally and professionally.
 - ▶ see online for faculty research interests.
 - ▶ Suggestion: Be open to working with a faculty member whose research interests do not match with your present interests.
- ▶ Faculty Research
<https://www.trentu.ca/psychology/faculty-research>
- ▶ Contact potential faculty to see if taking on new students.
 - ▶ email, make appointment during office hours, etc.

Finding a potential faculty supervisor

Finalizing application to program....

- ▶ Once you have a faculty member willing to supervise you
 - ▶ Complete, sign, and have the faculty member sign the application form.
 - ▶ Submit form to Laura McMaster in the Psychology Office.
 - ▶ This is your application to enter the thesis program.
 - ▶ Acceptance is confirmed only after all course requirements are met.

Timeline

- ▶ Application forms are available as of today (in this meeting, from the Psychology Office or online).
 - ▶ <https://www.trentu.ca/psychology/programs/undergraduate/honours-thesis-information>
- ▶ Application deadline: **March 1st, 2024, by 12:00 noon** (email to: lauramcmaster@trentu.ca in the Psychology Office, LHS C 104).
- ▶ If you meet course requirements, you will be notified late May when your marks become available.
- ▶ If you are completing course requirements in the summer, you may apply after the March 4th deadline and your application will be considered when summer final grades are available.