

Psychology Honours Thesis Information Session 2022



Contact Information

- Honours thesis co-ordinator:
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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?

- Coursework vs. thesis option for the Honours degree
- 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?

- Coursework vs. thesis option for the Honours degree
- Thesis is more than just a 'big paper'
- Workload is high! (PSYC 4020D = approximately 20 hours per week for two semesters)
- 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

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 3015Y 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. (see student handbook)

Page 360 of the Academic Calendar (2021-22)

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 4, 2022 by 12:00 noon**
email to LThackeray@trentu.ca, in the Psychology Office,
DNA/LHS C 104.

Finding a potential faculty supervisor

General...

- 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 student handbook or online for faculty research interests
 - Suggestion: Be open to working with a faculty member whose research interests do not match with your present interests
- The student handbook is a good resource
 - <https://www.trentu.ca/psychology/programs/undergraduate/student-handbook/appendix-c>
- 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 Lindsay Thackeray in the Psychology Office
 - This is your application to enter the thesis program
 - Acceptance is confirmed only after all course requirements are met

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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 4, 2022 by 12:00 noon (email to: Lthackeray@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.