

Is the Specialized Honours Program right for me?

Dr. J. Steele, Specialized Honours Coordinator / AUPD
Monday Jan 15th, 2017 5:30-7pm

Where can I learn more about the Specialized Honours Program?

- Psychology website:

<http://psychdev.info.yorku.ca/specialized-honours-babsc/>

- 2017-2018 Academic Calendar:

<http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/psychology-faculty-of-health>

Roadmap for today's workshop

1. Is the Specialized Honours program in Psychology right for me?
2. What are the differences between the Honours and Specialized Honours programs?
3. What is different about the Specialized Honours program as of the 2017-2018 academic year?
4. When and how do I apply?
5. Questions?



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Is the Specialized Honours Program right for me?

- The Specialized Honours Psychology Program is a **120-credit degree program designed for students who intend to pursue postgraduate studies in Psychology or a related discipline.** Students who graduate from this program will have demonstrated knowledge in a breadth of subdisciplines within Psychology and will be able to critically evaluate research results, theories, and opinions within this field. In addition, students who graduate from this program will have specialist training in research methods, statistical analyses, scientific communication, and critical thinking. A requirement of this program is the completion of an Honour's thesis under the direct supervision of a Psychology faculty member. **This program is well suited for students who plan to pursue postgraduate studies in a research-intensive field.**

Is the Specialized Honours Program right for me?

Questions to ask yourself:

1. Do you want to complete an individually supervised thesis?
2. Do you plan to only major in psychology?
3. Are you considering a research-intensive graduate program in psychology or a related field? This includes Clinical Psychology.
4. Are you interested in or prepared to take additional courses in statistics and research methods?
5. Are you able to maintain at least a B+ (7.0) average?

If you answer “yes” to all of these, the Specialized Honours program in psychology might be right for you

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What are the differences between the Honours and Specialized Honours programs?

Some differences include:

- You must maintain a 7.0 (B+) average (as opposed to 5.0 (C+))
- You must complete an honours thesis
- You complete at least 60 psychology credits (Honours is at least 42 or 48 depending on your year of entry)
- All Specialized Honours students complete **the new program requirements** which include Writing in Psychology (PSYC 2010) and Professionalism and Communication in Psychology (PSYC 3000)

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What is different about the Specialized Honours program as of the 2017-2018 academic year?

Some main changes include:

- The program is larger, to accommodate *all* students who meet the requirements
- We now require Writing in Psychology (PSYC 2010), & Professionalism and Communication (PSYC 3000)
- We no longer require Psychological Measurement (PSYC 3090)
- We now required at least 60 psychology credits
- You must secure a thesis supervisor to remain in the program, and can only complete a thesis through this program (Specialized Honours Thesis (PSYC 4001))

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Important Note about Honours

As of the Fall of 2019...

- Honours Thesis (PSYC 4000) will be discontinued
- Advanced Research Methods (PSYC 4170) will be discontinued
 - *These courses are being replaced by Critical Thinking in Psychology (PSYC 4180)*
- ***If you wish to complete an individually supervised thesis in the Fall of 2019 or later, you will need to be in the Specialized Honours Program.***
- *If you remain in the Honours program, and have a supervisor, you can enrol in a full-year Independent Study instead*

Program Requirements?

Please see 2017-2018 Academic Calendar for details about the exact requirements of the program:

<http://calendars.students.yorku.ca/2017-2018/psychology-faculty-of-health>

- Note – Psychology requirements are identical for BA and BSc students, but elective requirements differ

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Specialized Honours Degree?

- Applications will be accepted between May 1st and May 15th of each academic year. You are eligible to apply for this program this year if you:
- Have completed (or will have completed by the end of the summer term) at least 54 credits,
- Have completed at least 12.0 credits of your General Education requirements
- Have at least a B+ (7.0 or higher) cumulative GPA
- Have completed (or will have completed by the end of the summer term) each of the following courses:
 - *Psychology 2020: Statistical Methods I and II (or equivalent)*
 - *Psychology 2030: Introduction to Research Methods,*
 - *Psychology 2010: Writing in Psychology*
 - at least 3.0 credits from Group 1 (2100 series) and
 - at least 3.0 credits from Group 2 (2200 series)

Foundation Courses

Group 1 – 2100 Series Courses

- Developmental Psychology - PSYC 2110
- Social Psychology - PSYC 2120
- Personality - PSYC 2130

Group 2 – 2200 Series Courses

- Sensation & Perception I - PSYC 2220
- Motivation - PSYC 2230
- Biological Basis of Behaviour - PSYC 2240
- Cognition – PSYC 2260

Specialized Honours Degree?

- To remain in the program, and prior to enrolling in *Psychology 4001: Specialized Honours Thesis Seminar*, you must:
- Complete the prerequisites for *Psychology 4001* including:
 - *Psychology 3000: Professionalism and Communication in Psychology*,
 - *Psychology 3031: Intermediate Statistics Laboratory*, and
 - *Psychology 3010: Intermediate Research Methods*).

It is recommended that these courses be completed in third year (i.e., prior to completing 90 credits); **see the academic calendar for additional requirements**

- Maintain at least a B+ (7.0 or higher) cumulative GPA AND
- Secure a thesis supervisor
 - We will make every effort to help to guide you towards an appropriate thesis supervisor, but it is your responsibility to secure a supervisor. Without a thesis supervisor, you will no longer be able to pursue the Specialized Honours Program, even if you have received provisional acceptance into the program.

Specialized Honours Degree?

- Some suggestions:
 - Start trying to connect with research labs early...see if you can devote at least 5 hours per week to volunteer in a research lab (<http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/research/research-opportunities/>)
 - Keep your grades up – remember that W option
 - Be sure to complete the required courses
 - If you have transfer credits and questions come up – please visit us in the undergraduate office

To summarize

- Must have CGPA of at least 7.0 (B+) in order to graduate with a Specialized Honours degree.
- **Cannot** complete a double-major or a minor (not possible with Specialized Honours)
- All students follow the new program requirements
- Ideal program if you are considering graduate studies in Psychology or a research intensive related field (receive additional guidance and training about graduate school) and/or if you want to complete an individually supervised thesis.
 - Need to find your thesis supervisor, but you will receive help

For more information...

- Check out our website and read our emails

<http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/>

The Undergrad Psychology Office

291 BSB

Dr. J. Connolly, Undergraduate Program Director

Dr. J Steele, Association Undergraduate Program Director

Undergraduate Office staff provides

- ✓ advice about your psychology degree requirements
- ✓ advice about where to seek non-academic services
- ✓ help with PSYC courses enrolment, when necessary
 - Scheduling advising appointments
 - **Call 416-736-5117**
 - **Email psyc@yorku.ca**

