

About Psychology Honors Program

- The Psychology Honors Program is a 3-semester course sequence that includes an application process
- Students must submit an application for the program in the fall of their Junior year (see attached)
 - The application process requires that students secure their own advisor within the Spelman psychology department
- Required courses (with brief descriptions of what goes on in the course)
 - PSY 308 Honors Seminar: Spring of Junior Year
 - In this course, students complete a thesis proposal and defend their proposal and submit the IRB application for their proposed project
 - Students must pass this course with a B or better to advance to the Thesis Research course.
 - **Students who do not pass this course with a B or better WILL NOT be able to complete the psychology thesis, and therefore may not graduate with college honors.**
 - PSY 491 Honors Thesis Research: Fall of Senior Year
 - In this course, students collect and analyze data and continue work on their thesis
 - PSY 492 Honors Thesis Research: Spring of Senior Year
 - By this time, data collection should be complete. Students should be analyzing data and finalizing their thesis. Students are also required to present their work at Spelman or AUC psychology research day (or another conference) and defend their thesis to department faculty.
- Are you planning to study abroad in junior year?
 - The 3 semester sequence is required of all thesis students.
 - If going abroad in **fall semester...**
 - You can submit your application by email.
 - You will return to campus in time to enroll in PSY 308 and continue the sequence if successful in 308.
 - If you are planning to study abroad in the **spring semester...**
 - You will be able to submit your application in person in the fall.
 - It would be a good idea to begin working with your advisor while you are on campus in the fall of your junior year, so that you do not get behind.
 - Because you will be away in the spring semester, you would not enroll in PSY 308. However, it would be in your best interest to have your thesis proposal completed and IRB application submitted by the end of your spring semester even though you are abroad.
 - If you are planning to study abroad your **entire junior year...**
 - Plan to complete PSY 305 (Research Methods) by the spring of your sophomore year. You must have passed PSY 305 with a C or better to be eligible for the program.
 - You can submit your application by email in the fall.
 - You should begin laying the ground work for your thesis in your sophomore year. You will have to be in excellent communication with your advisor while you are abroad.

APPLICATION

HONORS PROGRAM IN PSYCHOLOGY SPELMAN COLLEGE

Requirements for Application

- *Minimum GPA of 3.2 (overall and in major)*
- *A minimum of a C in PSY305: Experimental Psychology (needed before start of PSY 308 course)*
- *Agreement from a Psychology faculty member to serve as your Primary Advisor*

Student Information

Faculty Advisor Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Overall GPA: _____ **Psychology GPA:** _____

Please provide typed, thoughtful, answers to the questions below (200-500 words each).

1. Personal Information

- A) Why are you applying to the Honors Program in Psychology? What do you hope to achieve through participation in this program?
- B) Describe one or more research experiences (this can be from a classroom or lab) that you have had, which illustrate both your passion and your suitability for research.

2. Preliminary Research Area (to be completed jointly by the Student and the Primary Advisor)

- A) Describe the general area(s) of study for the Honors Project.
- B) What activities will you pursue in preparation for entry into the Honors Program? (Suggested questions: What articles/books will you read, what research searches will you conduct on your own? Will you conduct any writing between now and January?)
- C) What steps will you take to ensure your successful completion of the program?

Endorsements: In signing below, the student formally applies for admission to the Psychology Honors Program, and the Faculty Advisor formally agrees to serve as the student's mentor. Both student and mentor acknowledge that they have each received and read the "Honors Program Guidelines" and that they agree to abide by them. **Student also agrees that she must pass the seminar class with a B or better to continue on to complete the honors thesis.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return a completed copy of this application, your transcript, and a Psychology writing sample* that exemplifies your best work to Dr. _____. Due Date: Last Friday in October.

(*The writing sample should be a revised copy of one of your best assignments from a course in psychology, and can be either a literature review or a full lab report.)