

Psychology Honors Program.

Personal interactions with faculty and other students encourage the exploration of ideas to greater depth and from more and different perspectives. When learning is exciting, it energizes and inspires, enriching each person involved. The capstone experience is an Honors Thesis.

In addition, graduating with Honors in Psychology alerts graduate schools and employers about your ability and motivation. A Psychology Major is good preparation for graduate education in psychology and also for a career in law, social work, business, advertising, etc.

Honors Advisor

Dr. Alida Westman, 502 Mark Jefferson, (734) 487-0098, alida.westman@emich.edu

Requirements for Graduation With Honors in Psychology

Admission Requirements

The student must

1. be a psychology major
2. have a minimum grade point average of 3.3 overall and 3.3 in Psychology
3. have completed 15 hours of academic credit at EMU
4. enroll before the beginning of the senior year
5. fill out an enrollment application for the University Honors Program, <http://www.emich.edu/honors/>
6. see the Psychology Honors Advisor, Dr. Westman, 502 Mark Jefferson, (734) 487-0098, alida.westman@emich.edu

Program Requirements

1. The student must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.3 overall, 3.3 in Psychology, and 3.3 in Honors coursework.
2. The student must complete a minimum of 12 hours of Honors credit in Psychology
3. Courses:

General Education: Special Honor's section of 101

This cannot be used for the 12 hours of Honors required to graduate with Honors in Psychology

Honors in Psychology

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|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Honors PSY Course or Contract Hours | 3 credit hours minimum |
| 2. | Honors PSY Course or Contract Hours | 3 credit hours minimum |
| 3. | Individual Reading to obtain background knowledge for the Honors Thesis | 3 credit hours minimum |
| 4. | Individual Research to do the Honors Thesis | <u>3 credit hours minimum</u> |

Total = 12 credit hours minimum

Honors Contract Hours. The student contracts for Contract Honors hours in any

psychology course, except Introductory Psychology. The student and instructor together decide what the student will do to make the course an honor course. The addition should be an enrichment and not just busywork. An Honors Contract is filled out and signed. The forms are available from the University Honors website, <http://www.emich.edu/honors/>. Grading is the same as normally applies in the course being contracted. The Honors Work is not separately graded.

Individual Reading. The purpose of this reading is to obtain the specialized knowledge for the Honors Thesis. The student should arrange the reading with a faculty member who is an expert in the area in which the student would like to do the thesis. This faculty member usually becomes the chair of the Honors Thesis Committee. It is suggested that the Individual Reading be done during the Junior year and that the Research be started promptly in the Senior year.

Honors Thesis. The thesis experience is set up to be analogous to the Masters thesis and Ph.D. dissertation experience but with more help and support. The faculty member with whom the student did the individual reading usually becomes the chair of the Honors Thesis Committee. At least one other faculty member is added to create an Honors Thesis Committee. When there is agreement about what will be done for the Honors Thesis, the committee meets and signs the Initial Approval form; this is a good-faith agreement that the work will be acceptable for the thesis if executed as agreed upon, even if the results are different than expected. The form is shown below. **Upon signing the form, the original should be filed with the Psychology Honors Advisor.**

Prior to beginning research with humans or animals, the appropriate Research Review Committee must approve the research.

The thesis must be defended before the Honors Thesis Committee, and only the committee members vote on whether the thesis is acceptable. Each committee member should have a copy of the thesis prior to the defense. An additional copy should be available in the Psychology Department Office for whomever would like to read it. The Final Approval Form is part of the Title page of the thesis. The Thesis Defense meeting is open to whomever would like to come. The student may invite friends and colleagues.

One copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Honors Office for binding and permanent display. An identical copy must be submitted to the Psychology Honors Advisor. Lab experiments should be documented in

writing and accompanied by appropriate illustrative materials, such as charts, tables, graphs, etc.

Written materials must be typed, double-spaced on 20# bond paper, 8½” by 11”, with 1½” left margin and 1” top, bottom, and right margins. The presentation should be neat; visible erasures or hand-corrections are not acceptable. Clear, clean photocopies are acceptable.

All theses should use standard APA format, except for the Title page and Table of Contents. For these two elements, follow the booklet on Honors Thesis from the University Honors Office.

Honors Thesis
Initial Approval

Title of Honors Thesis:

We approve the proposed work:

_____	_____
Chairperson	Date
_____	_____
Member	Date
_____	_____
Optional Member	Date

Indicate where and how the Honor's student can be reached. In case the research is elsewhere, make sure to include where and how the Honor's student can be reached at this destination.

Local address

Local Phone number(s)

e-mail address(es)

If the research is elsewhere, indicate how you can be reached there:

Return this sheet to the Honors Advisor. Make sure the Chairperson of the Honors Thesis Committee keeps a copy.