

DESCRIPTION OF THE HONORS PROGRAM (Spring, 2026)

The honors program is a two-course sequence (PSY 495, PSY 496) to which you apply in the spring of your junior year (Spring 2026) and can begin in the fall of your senior year (Fall 2026) and complete in the spring of your senior year (Spring 2027). **Applying to the honors program requires having a faculty person in Psychology agree to mentor you through your completion of your project.** Accordingly, preparing to apply to do an honors project requires getting involved in research earlier in your time here at Stony Brook, usually by completing PSY 273 with a faculty mentor in your sophomore and/or junior year. In that way, you can develop research skills, a mentorship relation with a faculty mentor, and an idea for an independent project to be carried out under the supervision of the faculty person who recommends that you be admitted to the program.

The main goal of the program is to provide you an opportunity to develop and complete a research project under the supervision of a faculty member. Other goals of the program are to help you sharpen your skills in writing about and/or orally presenting research findings, which can help prepare you for graduate school in psychology.

Your capstone accomplishment will take the form of a fully realized empirical project, with methods, results, and conclusions *or* a scholarly literature review which you report in the form of (a) a presentation at a conference and/or (b) an approximately 20-page paper written in the style of the American Psychological Association (APA). Whether the final form of your project is an APA-style paper or a conference presentation, or both, is to be agreed upon by the mentor.

TIMELINE

Before applying at the end of the spring semester of your junior year, you will need to have:

- a. Established a working relationship with one of the participating faculty.
- b. Settled on a research question that you will be able to answer in a one-year project. (This can be a portion of a larger project planned or underway by that faculty member.)
- c. Written and submitted a 250-word abstract of your planned project (as part of this application).
- d. Asked a faculty member to submit a letter of recommendation (as part of this application).

Specific Goals of PSY 495 (Fall Semester 2026):

By the end of your first full semester as an honors student, you should realize substantial progress on your project. By the end of the semester, you will:

- Survey the scientific literature relevant to your project.
- Settle with your mentor the final form of your project (conference presentation and/or APA-style manuscript).
- Begin data collection (if collecting new data) and/or begin data cleaning/data analysis (if using data that already exist), or literature retrieval.
- If planning for a conference presentation, become aware of **conference-submission deadlines** and work with your mentor to meet those deadlines (the Stony Brook-internal URECA deadline generally is in the spring).
- If planning an APA style manuscript, you should complete your **Introduction** and **Methods** sections by the end of this semester.

The Undergraduate Director will submit a letter grade for PSY 495 (it is one credit) based your progress in meeting the above objectives, as communicated by your mentor and/or as assessed directly through a minimum of one meeting (individual or group) per semester with each honors student.

Specific Goals of PSY 496 (Spring 2027):

By the end of your final semester as an honors student, you will have

- Completed data/literature collection and analysis for your honors project.
- Interpreted your results in light of your understanding of the scientific literature.
- If completing an APA-style manuscript, completed the literature review or the Abstract, Results, Discussion, and Reference sections for an empirical paper (and further revised the Introduction and Methods sections that you wrote in the fall), culminating in an approximately 20-page APA-style manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
- If completing a conference presentation, presented your work at a conference, where you knowledgeably answer questions about your project.

The Undergraduate Director will submit a letter grade for PSY 496 (it is one credit) based your progress in meeting the above objectives, as communicated by your mentor and/or as assessed directly through a minimum of one meeting (individual or group) per semester with each honors student.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HONORS PROGRAM:

1. Have a faculty mentor who has agreed to supervise your project (please see above description).
2. Be a 2nd semester JUNIOR Psychology major when applying (two weeks before the end of the Spring Semester 2026).
3. Have an **overall GPA of 3.2 and a GPA of 3.5 in Psychology.**
4. You should have already **COMPLETED the following courses:**

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY (PSY 103)
STATISTICAL METHODS IN PSYCHOLOGY (PSY 201 or approved equivalent)

APPLYING: Applications are DUE Friday, April 17th, 2026 and must include:

1. Application Form (see below)
2. A copy of your transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable).
3. A letter of recommendation from **a faculty member in Psychology who has agreed to be your mentor for your honors project.** Please ask your recommender to state in the letter (a) an agreement to be your mentor and (b) that the mentor has read an approved of your 250-word abstract that you are submitting in this application. Be sure to request that the recommendation be submitted to the Undergraduate Director, Dr. Hoi Chung Leung (psy_ugpd@stonybrook.edu) PRIOR TO the **deadline of Friday, April 17th, 2026**

Late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.

NOTIFICATION: You will be notified about the status of your application in **early May 2026.**

APPLICATION FORM

Senior Honors Program in the Psychology Department

Please type or write neatly.

Name

Email Address

Telephone Number

Current Address

Overall GPA

GPA in Psychology

Name of Faculty Member who will be recommending you for the program and who has agreed to be your mentor:

Abstract of 250 words Describing the project you wish to carry out with your mentor. Please have your mentor read and comment upon your abstract before submitting it here, and please have your mentor state in the letter of recommendation that the mentor has read the abstract and approves of it.

Below describe your past research assistant experience(s)

Dates or Semester	Responsibilities	Professor / Supervisor

Please indicate your grade and instructor for any courses in psychology.

Your Grade	Instructor	Course
		103 Intro to Psychology
		201 Statistical Methods in Psychology
		220 Developmental Psychology
		230 Abnormal Psychology
		240 Social Psychology
		250 Biopsychology
		260 Cognitive Psychology
		273 Supervised Research
		273 Supervised Research
		283 Community Service
		301 Advanced Statistics
		310 Research Writing in Psychology
		326 Child Social Emotional Development 327 Human Development
		329 Children's Learning & Instruction
		333 Mood Disorder
		334 Autism Spectrum Disorders
		338 Abnormal Child Development
		339 Exceptionality in Human Development
		339 Fear & Anxiety
		339 School Psychology
		341 Psychology of Prejudice
		344 Development/Aging in Adults
		346 Health Psychology
		347 Psychology of Women
		348 Prosocial Behavior & Neurobiology
		348 Psychology of Self Control
		348 Social/Personality Development
		348 Stress & Coping
		349 Addiction
		349 Close Relationships
		349 Children at Risk
		349 Death & Dying
		349 Intergroup Relations 349 Sexual Orientation
		349 Women's Health Issues 349 Death & Dying
		354 Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
		355 Human Brain Function
		356 Physiological Psychology
		357 Animal Learning
		358 Brain & Addiction
		358 Functional Neuroanatomy
		358 Hormones & Behavior
		358 Learning Memory
		358 Molecular Psychology/Genes, Behavior & Brain
		358 Neuroethology
		359 Drugs and the Brain

		364 Judgment & Decision Making
		365 Psychology of Language
		366 Human Problem Solving
		375 History and Systems
		380 Research Lab in Human Cognition
		382 Research Lab in Social
		Psychology 384 Research Lab in
		Human Factors 447 Readings in
		Psychology
		487 Independent Research
		488 Internship
		OTHER