

Research-Focused Honors Program

Information and Application Form for the 2026-2027 Program

The Research-Focused Honors Program provides a structured experience to help students develop research skills beyond those taught in PSY 20100 and PSY 20300. This three-semester program is designed for exceptional students who have a strong interest in research. It involves two honors seminars (PSY 40400 and PSY 40500), a readings course (PSY 39100H), and an independent research project designed and conducted by the student under the supervision of a faculty sponsor.

Students will write an honors thesis (PSY 49800H) based on their research, which they will present in poster format at the annual Department of Psychological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference during the **Spring 2027** semester.

Space in the program is limited. Preference will be given to students who are majors in Psychological Sciences or Brain and Behavioral Sciences and who are working with a faculty mentor with an appointment in the Department of Psychological Sciences. Interested students should identify a full-time faculty member willing to serve as their mentor and to supervise their PSY 39100H course (Spring 2026) and research project (six credits of PSY 49800H in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027). Students who have not identified a willing faculty member by the time applications are reviewed will not be considered. A list of psychological sciences faculty who are willing to mentor students is available at:

<https://hhs.purdue.edu/undergraduate-students/honors-program/psychological-sciences/>

If you encounter difficulty identifying a mentor, please contact Janet Proctor or one of the other PSYC advisors for assistance through [HHS Academic Advising](#).

Please note the following:

Eligible students must meet these prerequisites by the end of the Summer 2025 semester:

- a. Credit for PSY 12000, PSY 20100 and PSY 20300 (*minimum grade of B in each course required, higher grades preferred*)
- b. Credit for two other three-credit PSY courses (*excluding PSY 39000 or PSY 39100; minimum grade of B in each course required, higher grades preferred*)

Preference will be given to students who, at the time of applying, have:

- a. Psychology index of at least 3.5
- b. Graduation index of at least 3.5

- c. Current or prior experience in PSY 39000 (additional preference if experience is in lab or with proposed faculty mentor)

Additionally, the quality of a personal statement and mentorship plan will be considered within the selection process.

Selections will be made by a committee in the Department of Psychological Sciences. The names of students selected for this program will be placed on a list during pre-registration, and a time block (or alternate class) will be entered for the PSY 40400 time. Students selected for the program will be registered for PSY 40400H and PSY 39100H.

The application deadline is **12 p.m. EST Nov. 3, 2025**. No late applications will be accepted.

The following must be emailed as one package to [Emily Iffert](#), undergraduate program coordinator. Applications that do not follow these instructions will not be considered, so prepare your application carefully:

- a. Application to the Research-Focused Honors Program form (the next page in this packet), including the mentorship agreement;
- b. Resume that provides information about your previous research experience, other psychology-related activities and any information demonstrating your potential standing as an honors student (Note that participation in the Honors College or any College of Health and Human Sciences Honors Program is not required.);
- c. Transcript (unofficial transcript is sufficient);
- d. One-page, double-spaced statement of purpose describing your area of interest, why you wish to participate in the program and what you wish to get out of your participation in the program. Within this statement you should address how participation in the Research-Focused Honors Program fits within your larger goals (e.g., career goals, graduate school goals).

Additionally, your faculty mentor must email Emily Iffert to confirm that they have agreed to serve as your mentor, and that they have discussed the mentoring plan provided in your application. **This email must be received by the same deadline of 12 p.m. EST, Nov. 3.**

Application to the Research-Focused Honors Program
2026-2027

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Major(s): _____

Academic Advisor: _____

Psychology Index: _____

Graduation Index: _____

Faculty Mentor: _____

PSY COURSE	GRADE
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PSY 12000	_____
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PSY 20100	_____
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PSY 20300	_____
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_____	_____
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_____	_____
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PSY COURSE	GRADE
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PSY 39000 EXPERIENCE (lab and general description of duties):

MENTORSHIP AGREEMENT *(to be completed in partnership with faculty mentor):*

How frequently will the student be expected to meet with the mentor during the program?

Who will be the primary lab contact for the student during the program (e.g. faculty member, name of graduate student)?

What commitments does the mentor expect from the student?

Signature of Student: _____

Signature of Mentor: _____
(Digital signatures are acceptable)