



Honours Program

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What is the Honours Program?

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/programs-study/bachelor-arts-ba/honors-psychology>
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/programs-study/bachelor-science-bsc/honors-psychology>
- Arts & Science honours = (almost) the exact same
- Must complete an undergraduate honours thesis***

What is an Honours thesis?

- Laboratory research project
- In a lab, under a supervisor
- Thesis: abstract, intro, methods, results, discussion
- Poster presentation
- Seminar vs. no seminar
- Commitment: 10-15 hours per week, on average for year-long theses

Honours vs. Major

	Honours	Major (Arts)	Major (Science)
Credits	60	36	54
Can complete 42 OPQ credits?	YES	NO (unless you add Beh.Sci. minor)	YES
Do I have to do an undergraduate thesis?	YES	NO	NO
Minor required?	YES, if in Arts*	YES	NO
Can I go on exchange in my U2 year?	YES, but you will have to apply for U3 Honours (more competitive)	YES	YES

Note: YOU CAN NO LONGER DEFER YOUR ACCEPTANCE TO HONOURS***

What is the Honours Program?

Additional Requirements

- **Required Honours Courses:**
- PSYC 380D (9 cr)
- PSYC 482 (3 cr)
- **Complementary Courses** (select any 12 credits from):
 - PSYC 403, 483, 492, 493, 5xx
 - *Sr Hon Res Courses:* PSYC 496 (6 cr), 497 (6 cr), 498D (9 cr)
 - *Psych Res Courses:* PSYC 395 (6 cr), 495 (6 cr), 494D (9 cr)

Honours (Arts) Checklist → https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/files/psychology/ba_honors.pdf

Honours (Science) Checklist → https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/files/psychology/bsc_honors.pdf

Application process

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities/research-courses>
- Deadline: typically end of July (Summer after U1 year)
- Typed application form + unofficial transcript to Julia Marussi (julia.marussi@mcgill.ca)
- Brief description of why you want Honours, etc.
- Notified by email before classes begin in September
- Register as if in Major; make changes once accepted

Prerequisites

- Completed U1 requirements:
 - PSYC 100 & BIOL 115/111/112 (if not completed prior to university)
 - **PSYC 204** – Intro to Psychological Statistics
 - **PSYC 211** – Intro to Behavioural Neuroscience
 - **PSYC 212** – Perception
 - **PSYC 213** – Cognition
 - **PSYC 215** – Social Psychology
 - ***PSYC 305 (recommended)**
- Minimum GPA to apply: 3.0
 - Most students admitted at least 3.5 based on **27-30 credit program** (according to department, actual statistic likely higher)
- Minimum 27 credits completed in U1 year (does not include summer)

U3 (final year) Honours Program

- More competitive
- Criteria:
 - Overall GPA
 - GPA in core courses
 - U2 GPA
 - Should have research training in a lab or through a lab course
- **If you are in U3, but are not doing Final Year Honours**, indicate on application
 - Completing Honours Program in the two-year period

Do I need to do Honours if I want to go to grad school?

- **NO**
- BUT, research-intensive grad school (e.g. Clinical Psychology) requires previous research experience.
- Not just volunteering
- **Completing an independent project / thesis**
 - You do not need to be in Honours to do this
 - Science students → Do not need to add a minor
 - Arts students → Behavioural Science minor

Minor Concentration Behavioural Science (18 credits)

- For students in the Major Concentration Psychology (Arts)
- If you want to continue to grad school in psych & apply for membership in the OPQ (once the additional graduate requirements of the Ordre have been completed) → advised to take this minor
- Gives you more psych credits → ability to complete OPQ requirements and do research project(s)
- **SECOND MINOR → Arts students must take a minor in a discipline other than Psychology**

<https://www.mcgill.ca/study/2019-2020/faculties/basc/undergraduate/programs/bachelor-arts-ba-minor-concentration-behavioural-science>

When / how do I find a supervisor?

- Honours students are guaranteed a supervisor for PSYC 380; same for PSYC 450
- Tips:
 - Start looking into the faculty list for potential supervisors:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/about/faculty-0>
 - Supervisor must be core Psychology faculty *or* associate member
 - Start volunteering in research labs
 - Contact potential supervisors over the summer (don't wait until you are accepted to honours)
- You **will get a supervisor** for PSYC 380, but might not be your first choice (if you wait too long); same for 450
 - Not the case for the other research courses

When / how do I find a supervisor?

- Same process for all research courses
- Harshadaa went over this 😊

Research Courses in Psychology

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/psychology/undergraduate/current-students/research-opportunities/research-courses>
- Non-honours research courses require a separate application, which can be found at the above link (same link as Honours Program application).
- U2 Honours research course (PSYC 380D) does not require application; must be accepted to Honours
 - U3 Honours projects (e.g. PSYC 496, PSYC 498D) must be approved by Julia (no seminar)

Why should I do Honours?

- Asset when applying to grad school
- Gives you easier access to research opportunities
- It's fun! You get to...
 - Learn about the research your peers are conducting!
 - Immerse yourself in your own research project!
 - Meet other students who are as nerdy as you are!
- It helps you find out if research is for you!

Final note!

- **Not the end of the world if you do not get in!**
- There are other ways to do research
 - PSYC 450D (non-honours) is the equivalent to PSYC 380D (honours)