

SPECIALIZED HONOURS THESIS - PSYC 4001 6.0

Department of Psychology Faculty of Health – York University Specialized Honors Thesis Guidelines and Application

To register in Psychology 4001 – Specialized Honors Thesis, the student must have been accepted into the Specialized Honors Program in the Department of Psychology and must have completed the following pre-requisites:

- HH/PSYC 1010 6.00 (Introduction to Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 2010 3.00 (Writing in Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 2020 6.00 (Statistical Methods I and II) or substitutes.
- HH/PSYC 2030 3.00 (Introduction to Research Methods) or substitutes.
- HH/PSYC 3000 3.00 (Professionalism and Communication in Psychology)
- HH/PSYC 3010 3.00 (Intermediate Research Methods)
- HH/PSYC 3031 3.00 (Intermediate Statistics I)

Students may then complete and sign this application with their supervisor.

Students should [upload the completed Specialized Honors application](#).

This will be received by the Psychology department undergraduate office.

Once submitted to the undergraduate office, students will be contacted by email.

Approved students will be able to enroll in Psychology 4001 online approximately 1 week after submitting this application. If you have any concerns, or are not able to register, please contact the [Psychology Department Undergraduate Office](#), phone number (416) 736-5117.

An expanded description of the thesis project, as well as a representative bibliography, should accompany the Specialized Honors Thesis Application forms.

The description should be at least 150 words. It should be as concrete as possible and should clearly indicate the goals of the research and both the obligations of the student and the obligations of the professor.

This description will serve as a combination of course description and teacher-student contract. Often the student can write out the project description after a discussion with the professor, but the professor should not sign the contract until the description has been read and revised, as necessary.

1. The description should be concrete and explicit.
2. Do not leave agreements “understood” – they often become “misunderstood.”
3. If there are to be discussion meetings, set up regular times.
4. The representative bibliography should include at least 5 to 10 relevant readings and can be generated by the professor, the student, or a combination of both.
- 5.

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Tentative Grading and Timeline (*this is subject to change*):

Thesis Proposal	10%	Due to the supervisor by December 15 th
Poster Day	5%	Early April
External Thesis Evaluation	20%	Mid-April (feedback within 1 week)
Supervisor Thesis Evaluation	50%	Late-April
Seminar Participation	15%	Details to be provided in the course syllabus

A **Thesis Proposal** which includes the Introduction (literature review), and Method (proposed) sections must be submitted by December 15th, or when arranged with your supervisor, no later than January 15th. This work is graded by the thesis supervisor and is worth 10% of the final course grade. This deadline will ensure that the student begins writing in the first term and that progress will be made in the development of the methodology. It also gives the student the opportunity to receive feedback from the supervisor. It is highly recommended that some or all the thesis data be collected by the end of the Fall Term.

Poster Day participation is mandatory. This is graded as pass (5/5) or fail (0/5). Poster Day is typically held in early April, typically just prior to the examination period. The poster presentation will provide an opportunity to receive feedback about the thesis before submitting the thesis draft. This is often required by the last week of classes.

The **External Thesis Evaluation** will be completed by a professor other than the supervisor, who evaluates the final product (the written thesis) and not the process (e.g., the amount of student contribution that led to the final product). The Seminar Instructor is responsible for assigning a second reader to each thesis. To give the second reader enough time to evaluate the work and provide his/her feedback, each student will be required to submit a full draft of the thesis by mid-April. This typically accounts for 20% of the student's final grade.

The **Supervisor Thesis Evaluation** accounts for 50% of the final grade and reflects an evaluation of the final product, as well as the student's contributions to the process (ideas, creating stimuli, recruiting, and running participants, etc.).

Seminar Participation is a required component of the Specialized Honors Thesis course. The instructor will contribute 15% toward the student's final grade. Although this seminar will not take place every week, each student should ensure that they are free during the scheduled class time. More details on this participation component will be available in the course syllabus that is provided during the first-class session.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Use data analytic software for analysis of psychological data.
2. Design, execute, analyze, and interpret results from a study examining a specific research question.
3. Express in written form psychological findings using APA style.
4. Express in written form, a research study in psychology.
5. Recognize limits of conclusions based on inferential statistics.
6. Critically identify limitations of individual research endeavors.
7. Apply ethical principles of the CPA code of ethics to their own research.

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**Department of Psychology
Faculty of Health – York University
Specialized Honors Thesis
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Please submit the completed form to: [Specialized Honors program](#)

Part 1: Student Information

Name	
Student Number	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Term and Year (i.e., FW19-20)	
Student Signature:	
Date:	

Part 2: Supervisor Information

Name	
Email Address	
Signature	
Date	

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HONOURS THESIS APPLICATION FORM (CONT.)

Faculty of Health – York University

Name	
Student Number	

Course Title:

This course will be listed as Specialized Honors Thesis on your York University transcript. An additional course subtitle can appear on your transcript (with a maximum forty characters). Please indicate below what you would like this subtitle to be (optional). Or, if you would prefer to have the first forty characters of your thesis title to appear, please request that here. If left blank, this course will simply appear as Specialized Honors Thesis.

Brief Course Description:

Maximum forty words or two hundred characters. This course description should be carefully written to convey what the thesis is about. For editorial consistency, verbs should be in the present tense.

Please attach:

- (a) Faculty – Student Questionnaire (below)
- (b) An expanded course description that includes the thesis topic and expectations
- (c) A representative bibliography

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PES Update:

Verified:

Date:

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SPECIALIZED HONOURS THESIS APPLICATION FORM Faculty-Student Questionnaire

Students interested in enrolling in Psychology 4001 – Specialized Honors Thesis MUST review and answer the following questions with their supervisor. Please affix this form to the end of the application along with the expanded thesis description and representative bibliography.

1. Is the student aware of the Department deadlines for various aspects of the thesis as outlined above? Yes/No
2. Does the student plan to present the research at the Annual Provincial Undergraduate Thesis Conference (more information will be provided later in the term)?
Yes/No/Possibly
3. It is important to be clear on the workload that the thesis will involve. After discussion, circle one of the following numbers which gives the best estimate of the total number of hours the student will spend on the thesis including, library work, proposal writing, collecting data, data analysis, and drafts of the thesis:
 - a) less than 250 hours (specify hours_____)
 - b) 250 hours
 - c) Three hundred hours
 - d) 350 hours
 - e) more than 350 hours (specify hours_____)
4. Instruction/Supervision: Please indicate proposed frequency of meetings between student and supervisor(s) (i.e., weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, bi-monthly)_____
5. Please append an expanded course description of at least 150 words.
6. Please append representative bibliography that includes a list of relevant journal articles, books, and/or essays that are relevant reference materials for this thesis topic.

Please Note:

The final copy of the completed thesis must be submitted to the Hebb Lab - hebblab@yorku.ca with the subject line Thesis Submission.

This Thesis Course is subject to the Faculties of Health/Science deadlines relating to enrolment, withdrawal, and course completion. Relevant deadline information is detailed in the University Undergraduate Lecture Schedule.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Students and faculty should keep a copy of this application.*

(Updated March 2025)