Departmental Honors in Psychology

A. Purpose. The purpose of the Departmental Honors in Psychology designation is to recognize psychology majors who have achieved substantial academic success in the Psychology curriculum above and beyond meeting graduation requirements. Departmental Honors in Psychology is earned through meeting several internal and external criteria, which when used in concert, identify a graduating psychology major worthy of an honors designation.

B. Candidacy for Departmental Honors in Psychology
   a. Students requesting admission to Departmental Honors in Psychology must have
      i. Declared Psychology as a major
      ii. Completed PS322 Research Methods I with a final grade of “B” or better,
      iii. Earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in all coursework at Ursuline College
      iv. Earned a Psychology GPA of at least 3.5 (MAT212 is included in this calculation) at Ursuline College
   b. Students are expected to maintain candidacy throughout their participation in the Departmental Honors in Psychology program. A student who initially met candidacy requirements and was admitted to the program but subsequently failed to maintain candidacy requirements (viz. GPA) may continue to work on other aspects of the program. However, if candidacy requirements are not re-established at the time of graduation, Departmental Honors in Psychology will not be awarded.

C. Application. An Application for Candidacy for Departmental Honors in Psychology is completed by the student and submitted to the Psychology Department Chairperson for review (see Appendix A).

D. The student seeking Departmental Honors in Psychology will have created a novel empirical research study which was presented at an approved research conference(s).
   a. Supervision: Research projects are supervised by a faculty member with a full time appointment in the Psychology Department. The supervising faculty member is consulted by the student at every step of the research process, and the supervisor’s approval of the student’s work is required at each step.
   b. Coursework. The research study is typically completed while enrolled in PS324 Research Methods II or PS424 Research Methods III, or PS461/462 Independent Study.
   c. Collaboration. Collaborative research projects are acceptable as long as the student applying for Departmental Honors in Psychology is clearly integral to the success of the project. The supervising faculty member is the final determiner of the student’s integral involvement to the success of the project.
   d. The Research Proposal: The student presents potential empirical research projects to the supervising faculty member who has final determination over the researchable topic. Once the topic is approved, the student is responsible for the construction of an Introduction to include a literature review and research hypothesis and a suitable Methodology for answering the research question.
   e. The Human Subjects Committee Application: Once the Introduction and Method sections are approved by the supervising faculty member, the student is responsible for completing a request to use human subjects. Once the application is approved by the supervising faculty member, the student submits the request to the Ursuline College Human Subjects Committee.
f. **Data Collection:** If the request to use human subjects is approved by the Human Subjects Committee, only then is the student permitted to begin data collection.

g. **The Results and Discussion:** Once data collection is completed, the student is responsible for the analysis of the data, and writing the Results and Discussion sections.

h. **The Presentation:** Upon approval by the supervising faculty member of the completed written Results and Discussion sections, the student is permitted to submit the completed research project to an approved conference for presentation. If the research project is accepted at the research conference then the student is responsible for attending the conference and presenting the project in the prescribed format. Approved conferences include The Ohio Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (OUPRC) and The Midwestern Psychological Association Conference (MPA). Other conferences may also be acceptable at the discretion of the supervising faculty member.

i. **The Final Report:** A final research report written according to APA and departmental guidelines is submitted to the supervising faculty member and archived in the department. The report includes:

   i. Cover Page
   ii. Abstract
   iii. Introduction
   iv. Method
   v. Results
   vi. Discussion
   vii. References

E. **Comprehensive Examination.** The Major Field Test in Psychology published by The Educational Testing Service is administered annually near the end of the semester in which the student is enrolled in the PS490 Capstone in Psychology course. Using national normative data which is current as of the student's test date, the student's composite score percentile ranking on this content exam is determined.

F. **The Award: Departmental Honors in Psychology.** The student who successfully maintains candidacy, successfully completes the empirical research project(s) and final report(s), makes approved conference presentation(s), and completes the comprehensive content exam will earn Departmental Honors in Psychology if either of the following two conditions (a. or b.) are met:

   a. At least one approved conference presentation AND a score $\geq 75^{th}$ percentile on the comprehensive content exam.

   b. At least two approved conference presentations AND a score of $\geq 50^{th}$ percentile on the comprehensive content exam.
Appendix A: Application for Departmental Honors in Psychology

Name: ___________________________________________________ Date: ________________

ID# ______________________ Expected Graduation Date: ____________

CANDIDACY

Declared Psychology as a major [    ]
Completed PS322 Research Methods I with a final grade of “B” or better. Grade earned: ____________
Earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in all coursework at Ursuline College. GPA earned: _________
Earned a Psychology GPA of at least 3.5 (including MAT212) at Ursuline College. GPA earned: ______

Candidacy requirements for Departmental Honors in Psychology have been met.

________________________________________ ______________________________ ___________
Student Signature    Psychology Department Chair Signature  Date

Course Work and Conference Presentation

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Major Field Test in Psychology Composite Percentile Score: ___________________

Which of the following two conditions have been met (check a. or b.) ?

[ ] a. One conference presentation AND comprehensive exam score ≥ 75th percentile, OR

[ ] b. Two conference presentations AND comprehensive exam score ≥ 50th percentile

This student has met all of the requirements for Departmental Honors in Psychology

____________________________________ ________________________________ ____________
Psychology Department Chairperson Date