

# THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT HONORS PROGRAM

## Two Semesters (Fall and Spring)

### **THIS PAMPHLET HAS ACTION IMPLICATIONS FOR SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS**

The Psychology Department Honors Program is for seniors who want to do supervised research. You work on a project of joint interest with a department faculty member. It is an interesting experience that is similar to that encountered in most psychology graduate programs. You should have a B average or better (overall and in psychology) to be accepted.

Any type of psychological research is acceptable. You will work on your research project throughout your senior year, writing a research proposal, presenting an oral report, gathering and analyzing your data, and writing up your report. The thesis, which is article length and is submitted in May, will be read by two faculty members who will conduct an oral examination on it. At the end of the year, your transcript will indicate that you have achieved either honor, high honors, or highest honors in psychology.

You should begin making plans **NOW**, if you are interested. The most important step is to **line up a faculty mentor**. The sooner you do so, the better. If you are a second-semester junior, you need to meet with your mentor in the spring semester as to plan background reading for the summer before you start the research. If you are a sophomore or a first-semester junior, you should seriously consider doing one or two semesters of independent study (Psychology 498 or 499) with your future honors mentors so as to get research experience before your senior year. While you are free to choose your own honors project, it is highly recommended that you pick a topic of interest to your faculty mentor, so as to make maximum use of his or her talents. Once you have chosen a faculty mentor, you should **fill out a notification form**, available from Christa Greenberg, 283 Park Hall. You should also **sign up for the Honors Seminar**, in the fall of your senior year. To do so, register for Psychology 400 for 3 credit hours under Professor Gayle Beck, the Director of the Honor's Program. (You will register with your faculty member for 3 credit hours in the spring.) You should also take **Research Methods, Psychology 450** either before or during the honors year.

If you have any questions about the program, see or call Christa Greenberg, Coordinator of the Department of Psychology's Undergraduate Studies Program (645-3650, ext. 283) or Dr. Gayle Beck (645-3650, ext. 230 or [jgbeck@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:jgbeck@acsu.buffalo.edu)). Christa is developing a file of faculty interests, which is available to you in her office (282 Park Hall). Another way to find a mentor is to approach a professor whose class you have found interesting.

**Notification for Psychology Honors Program\***  
**Two semesters (Fall and Spring)**

Please return to Christa Greenberg, Coordinator for the department of Psychology's Undergraduate Studies in 283 Park Hall.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Overall Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Psychology Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Anticipated Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9. What do you plan to do after graduation?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Faculty Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Topic or Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\*You're in the program if you have at least a 3.0 average in Psychology and overall **and** have a faculty mentor who has agreed to supervise your project. Otherwise see Dr. Beck in Room 230. Be sure to sign up for Psychology 400 with Dr. Beck next fall for 3 or 4 credits.