

Students interested in pursuing Graduation with Distinction generally must register for Independent Study during both semesters of their senior year. They also must submit this form to the Undergraduate Psychology Office, 242 Soc/Psych, by the first day of regular registration in the fall.

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION REGISTRATION FORM

Graduation with Distinction (GwD) in Psychology recognizes undergraduates who conduct an independent research project that results in a scholarly thesis and an oral defense before a faculty committee. Participants must meet minimum GPA requirements, complete at least two semesters of research related to the project, and complete the associated thesis preparation course before defending their thesis and presenting their research to the academic community at Duke. Participation in the program is noted on the transcript and successful completion results in acknowledgment both on the transcript and also at graduation. Exceptional theses may be nominated by the faculty advisor for consideration for the Zener Award, presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior in Psychology. The specific requirements of the Psychology GwD program are as follows:

- **Overall GPA of 3.0 and major GPA of 3.5.** GPAs are not rounded up, and grades in independent study classes in psychology and the distinction thesis workshop do not count towards the major GPA.
- **Completion of two semesters of independent study related to the project.**
- **Completion of PSY 496.** This is a one-credit course taught during spring semester only. It counts towards major requirements but is not included in the GPA calculation for the major.
- **Writing of thesis and completion of oral defense before a three-person faculty committee.**
- **Poster presentation at the “Visible Thinking” Undergraduate Research Fair in April.**

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Students wishing to earn GwD in Psychology should do the following:

- **Plan a substantial thesis/research project, obtain a faculty sponsor, and arrange for two other individuals to serve on the thesis committee.** One member of the committee must be a core (primary) member of the Psychology & Neuroscience faculty. A second member must be either a core faculty member or hold a secondary appointment in P&N. (A current list of core faculty and faculty with secondary appointments may be found at <http://psychandneuro.duke.edu/people?subpage=unit&cname=Faculty>). The final member may be a P&N faculty member, a graduate student in P&N, or a faculty member from another department or institution.
- **Submit the following to the Undergraduate Psychology Office (242 Soc/Psych) before the first day of regular registration in the fall:**

NAME: _____ GRADUATION SEMESTER: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PROJECT TITLE: _____

FACULTY SPONSOR: _____

COMMITTEE MEMBER 2: _____

COMMITTEE MEMBER 3: _____

REQUIRED SIGNATURES:

Student Participant _____
Signature Printed

Faculty Sponsor _____
Signature Printed

Committee Approved by DUS _____ Date _____