

Students interested in pursuing Graduation with Distinction will register for Independent Study in the fall semester of senior year, and submit this form to the Undergraduate Psychology Office, Soc-Psych 242, by September 30th.

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 oral defense before a faculty committee. Participants must meet minimum GPA requirements, spend at least one year of research on the project, and complete the associated thesis preparation courses before defending the thesis and presenting the research to Duke’s academic community. Participation in the program is noted on the transcript during the senior year and successful completion results in acknowledgment on the transcript and at graduation ceremonies. Exceptional theses may be nominated by the faculty advisor for consideration for the Zener Award, presented annually to an outstanding graduating senior in Psychology. Specific requirements of the Psychology GwD program include:

- **Overall GPA of 3.0 and major GPA of 3.5.** Applicants may have below-minimum grades at the time of application, but must meet the required levels by the time of graduation in order to be awarded Honors. GPAs are not rounded up and grades in independent study classes in psychology do not count towards the major GPA. In cases where the student’s GPA falls just below the required cut-offs, their faculty mentor may elect to petition the Department Curriculum Committee to permit the student to graduate with distinction.
- **Completion of two semesters of independent study related to the project.**
- **Completion of PSY 496.** This is a 1.0 credit course taught during spring semester only. It counts towards major requirements but is not used to calculate the major GPA.
- **Writing of the thesis and oral defense before a 3-person faculty committee.**
- **Poster presentation at “Visible Thinking” Undergraduate Research Fair in April.**

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Students wishing to participate in the GwD in Psychology program should:

- **Plan a substantial thesis/research project and obtain a faculty sponsor, as well as two other individuals to serve on the thesis committee.** One member of the committee must be a core member of the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience faculty. A second member must be either a core faculty member or hold a secondary appointment in psychology. (A current list of core faculty and faculty with secondary appointments can be found at <http://psychandneuro.duke.edu/people?subpage=unit&cname=Faculty>). The final member may also be a P&N faculty member, but could also be a psychology graduate student or a faculty member from another department.
- **Submit the following two forms to the DUS Office (242 Soc-Psy) before the deadlines listed above:**

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 _____