

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION APPLICATION

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.
- **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 (P&N). 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 or institution external to Duke.
- **Writing of the thesis and oral defense before a 3-person faculty committee.**
- **Poster presentation at *Visible Thinking* Undergraduate Research Fair in April.**
- **Submit this form to psychologyDUS@duke.edu or to 242 Soc Psych by the first day of class registration of the defense semester (Fall defense, fall registration-March/April; Spring Defense, spring registration-October/November)**

Student Name: _____ Defense Date: Fall Spring of 20____

Unique ID Number: _____ Email: _____

Project Title: _____

Approval Signatures

Committee Chair Printed Name: _____

Committee Chair Signature: _____

Committee Member Printed Name: _____

Committee Member Signature: _____

Committee Member Printed Name: _____

Committee Member Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

DUS Signature: _____

For Office Use Only: PSY 496 Permission Number: _____