

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 two semesters of research on the project, and complete the associated thesis preparation course 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 mentor 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. In cases where the student's GPA falls just below a required cut-off, his or her faculty mentor may elect to petition the DUS for Psychology to permit the student to graduate with distinction.
- **Completion of two semesters of independent study related to the project.** Independent study courses are one-credit courses. Only two Psychology independent study courses may count toward major requirements, and grades in these courses are not included in the calculation of the major GPA.
- **Completion of PSY 496.** This is a one-credit course taught during spring semester only. It may count toward major requirements but the grade in this course is not included in the calculation of the major GPA.
- **Completion of a substantial written thesis/research project under the mentorship of a faculty member in P&N.** The thesis mentor usually serves as the chair of the student's thesis committee.
- **Successful completion of an oral defense before a 3-person faculty committee.** The chair, or first member of the committee, must hold a primary or joint appointment in P&N. The second member may hold a primary, joint, or secondary appointment in P&N. The final member may be a P&N faculty member, post-doc, or graduate student, a faculty member from another department at Duke, or a faculty member from another institution. (A current list P&N faculty may be found <https://psychandneuro.duke.edu/> under the 'People' tab.)
- **Poster presentation at the Visible Thinking undergraduate research fair in April.**
 - **Submit the following form to psychologyDUS@duke.edu or to 242 Soc/Psych by the first day of class registration for the term in which the thesis will be defended (for a fall defense, Fall registration in March/April; for a spring defense, Spring registration in 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: _____