

Independent Research I, II, III, IV: PSYC 5001-5004

This is a faculty supervised independent research course that includes literature review, data collection and analysis, and/or substantial theoretical development, meta-analytic, computational or simulation-based work. Minimum of 9 hours conference and independent work. Students meet with their advisors on a weekly basis, and submit a final research report by the end of the semester. A copy of the report must be submitted to the Department for each course section. No grade will be assigned for the course until a Department approved report is submitted and filed.

Eligibility criteria for PSYC 5001-5004 courses:

- Prerequisites: Introductory Psychology (PSYC 1000); Statistical Methods (PSYC 3400); six additional credits in advanced Psychology Department courses; Experimental Psychology (PSYC 3450), which may be included among the six credits or may be taken as a co-requisite; and permission of the Chairperson
- A faculty member agrees to serve as advisor/instructor.

Course Registration: Submit a completed course PSYC 5001-5004 registration form to the Department of Psychology:

- Student completes the top portion
- Faculty Advisor completes the bottom portion; Chairperson gives final approval for registration.

Submitting work at the end of the Semester: Students submit a written report at the end of each semester they are enrolled in a PSYC 5001-5004 course. Department approval of the report is required before a grade is assigned for the course. The requirements for written reports depend on whether the course is:

1. A single independent research course (see below)
2. Taken as part of an honors thesis* (see the Graduating with Departmental Honors document on the website for more information about requirements and submission deadlines)

Report types for single independent research course: Reports are written in APA format and should contain at minimum, the following:

1. Title Page (1 page), Abstract (1 page)
2. Body: Introduction, Methods, Results (if applicable), Discussion (if applicable) (12 pages minimum),
3. References (minimum of 10 references)

Completed Research Report: This type of paper must include the following sections: (a) Title Page; (b) Abstract; (c) Literature Review that provides sufficient background and justification for conducting the study, with specific hypothesis(es); (d) Methods Section that thoroughly describe the design, participants, equipment, materials, tasks and procedure of the study; (e) Results Section that justifies and explains the statistical analyses that were conducted and their outcomes; (f) Discussion Section that interprets the results, addresses implications of the results, identifies study limitations, relates the findings to the broader theoretical framework and issues raised in the Introduction, and poses directions for future research; and (g) References.

Theoretical Report: A paper consisting of a thorough review and discussion of the research on a particular topic. The paper should NOT simply present a "catalog-like" summary of one study after another. Rather, the paper should consist of a systematic integrative synthesis of the literature with one or more of the following features: (a) provides new and interesting connections or insights, (b) evaluates a controversy in the field by considering the evidence for or against a particular theory or claim(s) that result in an informed conclusion and proposes research to evaluate or resolve the controversy or (c) makes a theoretical argument and/or presents a new theoretical model to account for a particular set of research findings. Computer simulation/modeling or meta-analysis are included as acceptable approaches.

Other: An alternate type of paper may be acceptable; faculty advisors please append description to form.

***Report types for honors thesis:** Students completing an honors thesis are referred to the Graduating with Departmental Honors document on the website for more information.

PSYC 500X series (PSYC 5001-5004) courses requirements clarifications:

- Students will spend a minimum of 9 hours per week in the research lab actively conducting research (collecting and analyzing data) each semester.
- Faculty mentors must have weekly meetings with their independent research students.
- **Project Requirement:** Please note that acceptable projects do not necessarily need to involve human or animal participants; rather, studies consisting of computer simulation or other computational methods, such as a meta-analysis (raw data from selected studies are combined and analyzed to improve estimates of the size of a given effect and/or to resolve uncertainty when research papers disagree about a certain topic) are also acceptable.
- **Report Requirement:** Students must submit a final APA-Style Report at the end of the semester, for each 5000-level course. Note that a report that is merely a summary or a critical review of current literature on a specific topic is **not** sufficient for the 5000-level independent research report.
- **Honors Notation:** As an “Honors” course, the presumption is that students will conduct “Honors” level work. Nonetheless, the instructor may choose **not** to assign an “Honors” designation, if the level of performance is **not** achieved by the student. If the faculty member chooses **to** assign an “Honors” designation, they make the request through the BC portal after grades have been submitted through CUNYFirst.
- **Course Bulletin Description:** Minimum of 9 hours conference and independent work; 3 credits Faculty-supervised independent research that includes data collection and analysis and/or theoretical work. Weekly conference. Final report must be submitted to the department.
- **Graduating with Departmental Honors:** Completion of PSYC 5001-5004 series courses, in the form of an honors thesis, can be a component of the requirements for students applying to graduate with Departmental Honors in Psychology. Students are referred to the “Graduating with Departmental Honors” document for more information about requirements and submission deadlines.

Independent Honors Research: PSYC 500X series (PSYC 5001-5004) Application

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ SEMESTER _____ YEAR _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ COURSE # _____ SECTION _____
PHONE #: _____
CUNY EMPL ID #: _____

FACULTY ADVISOR: Prior to the beginning of the semester, please discuss with the student the requirements for the Independent Research course. If you agree to advise this student on the honors project, please complete the information below and sign the application.

- 1a. Name and title (Professor, Graduate Student, Research Assistant etc.) of immediate supervisor of the student's project: _____
- 1b. If individual identified in (1a) is not a full-time faculty member, provide the name of the faculty member overseeing the student's project: _____
2. This is a: ☐ New Project ☐ Ongoing research project
3. This is the student's: ☐ First semester conducting the project ☐ Second semester conducting the project
4. Single course or Honors Thesis: ☐ Single course ☐ Honors thesis Semester 1 ☐ Honors thesis Semester 2
5. Faculty workload request: ☐ .5 credits ☐ .25 credits ☐ .125 credits (may attach justification)
5. List of other undergraduate students working on this project: _____
6. List of graduate students working on this project: _____
7. Title of Project: _____
8. Description of Project (task, resources, hypothesis; 2-3 sentences). _____
9. Type of report (see previous page) that the student will be required to submit at the end of the semester:
Single Course: ☐ Complete Report ☐ Theoretical Report ☐ Other (attach description)
Honors Thesis*: ☐ Interim report ☐ Final Honors Thesis
* see Graduating with Departmental Honors document for requirements and submission deadlines
10. Approximate number of hours per week of laboratory/research work: _____
11. Mentorship: ☐ In-Person Weekly Meetings ☐ Other (specify): _____

I agree to the requirements of this honors project.

STUDENT

NAME (PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE

I agree to serve as an advisor for this honors project.

FACULTY ADVISOR

NAME (PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

NAME (PRINT)

SIGNATURE

DATE

