

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Senior Thesis Guidelines

PSY 500: Senior Thesis I **3 Credits**

The first part of an intensive year-long independent research project for seniors, carried out in close supervision and collaboration with a faculty mentor and resulting in a final written thesis. Prerequisites: Prior research experience with mentor. Department Consent required.

PSY 500A: Senior Thesis II **3 Credits**

The second part of an intensive year-long independent research project for seniors, carried out in close supervision and collaboration with a faculty mentor and resulting in a final written thesis. Prerequisites: Prior research experience with mentor. Department Consent required.

- A *Senior Thesis Application Form* must be completed, with the signature of the research director, and submitted the Undergraduate Director. The summer before senior year (if not earlier), students will begin a literature review and work on a draft of a thesis proposal.
- At the beginning of the semester during which they are registered for PSY 500, students and their research mentors should lay out goals and a semester plan so that expectations are clear. If students have made satisfactory progress by the end of that semester (e.g., data collection begun), faculty thesis directors will give permission for students to register for PSY 500A for the second semester of their senior year.
- The thesis must be completed and submitted to the faculty mentor, along with the *Senior Thesis Final Approval Form*, no later than 3 weeks prior to the last day of class that final semester. Any requested revisions must be completed by the last day of class, at which time students will obtain the signature of their faculty mentor on the Approval Form and submit that form and a copy of the completed thesis to the Undergraduate Director. A symposium session will be scheduled towards the end of the semester, so that all students completing a Senior Thesis will make a brief (e.g., 15 minute) presentation to the department describing their research.