

**Application for the Psychology Research Honors Program**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA in Psychology courses only: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

CSP/PSY 219W Completion Date and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and grades for all completed 300-level research courses:

Please attach your Honors Research Proposal (guidelines are provided on the following page). In addition, please attach a page that lists all completed Psychology courses and the final grade received in each course.

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<b>Faculty Advisor Name/Department/Phone</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Student Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## Proposal Outline:

The honors research thesis proposal is a 4-page (maximum), double-spaced, proposal of the research you want to conduct to fulfill requirements for the honors degree. The proposal should be written under the guidance of your faculty advisor. Thus, substantial planning and pre-review by your faculty mentor is expected and the submission of first drafts or proposals which have not been thoroughly vetted by your advisor is highly discouraged. The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the originality of the proposal idea (e.g., does it extend previous research), the feasibility of actually conducting the study within the time and financial constraints of honor's projects and faculty research, the organization and writing style (i.e., is it clear and accurate), the thoroughness of the literature review and conceptual rationale for conducting the study, and the ability of your methodological design to adequately test your hypotheses.

Your paper should contain the following information:

### Background, Significance, and Aims

(1) *Briefly introduce the problem.* The paper should open up with a brief introduction to the specific problem under study. This gives readers some sense of the topic and specific problem that you will be addressing in the proposal and provides a framework from which to understand your subsequent literature review.

(2) *Describe the background and significance of your study in detail.* This part of the introduction answers the questions of "What do we know about the problem under study?" So, to familiarize the reader with the status of the literature in your area of study, what is required is a brief review of the literature relevant to your research question. As you progress through this part of the paper, you should increasingly narrow your focus to covering research and theory that directly addresses the variables or constructs in your proposal. In the process, this should help build a case for the significance or importance of your study by showing how it fits in with prior research and theory.

(3) *Address the contribution of your study, your aims, and your hypotheses.* Clearly state what questions your study is designed to address (i.e., your aims and the variables you are investigating) and how they extend previous research and theoretical findings. It is also critical to develop your specific hypotheses (i.e., what do you predict in terms of the relationships among your variables?) and your justification for the hypotheses from your prior literature review (Why do I expect those results?).

### Methodological Plan

*Participants.* Describe in a few sentences the characteristics of the participants you would plan to recruit along with any necessary information on the procedures you would employ in recruiting them.

*Procedures.* In this section, concisely tell the reader how the study will be executed; that is, provide an account of what you and the participants will do. This often centers around providing a general description of the methods you will use to collect your data. Will you employ interviews, behavioral observations, or questionnaires? Where will the study be conducted? What constructs are the proposed methods generally designed to tap (e.g., marital conflict, agency, communion, intrinsic motivation)? How long will the procedure last?

*Measures.* If possible, briefly describe how you will measure your variables. For example, if you will conduct observations of events and behaviors, can you tell the reader what coding system you will use or modify to capture the relevant constructs? If you will use interviews or questionnaires, can you tell the reader the specific measure that will be used or the kinds of questions that will be asked? For example, do you plan on developing your own measure or are you using or adapting a previous measure for your proposal?