

Checklist of Prerequisites

For Enrolling in Psychology 4990 (Senior Thesis)

1. _____ Completion of Psychology 3140: Methods of Psychological Inquiry (completion of experimental lab optional but highly recommended).
2. _____ Student is at least a second semester junior.
3. _____ *Letter of recommendation from student's Psychology 3140 instructor and/or experimental lab instructor, commenting on student's qualifications/potential for experimental activity.
4. _____ *Letter from a faculty member of the Department of Psychology stating that he/she is willing to serve as the primary advisor of the student's work.
5. _____ *Letter from student requesting permission to enroll in Psychology 4990.

* Requirements 3-5 above should be submitted to the Chair of the Psychology Department's Undergraduate Program Committee (UPC) for approval. The Chair of this committee will file all documentation for eligibility and the Senior Thesis Enrollment Approval Form in the student's file and instruct the department secretary give permit to register on EBRUNO and provide notification to the student to register.

Psychology 4990 – Senior Thesis

Credit Hours: Six (6) credit hours or three (3) credit hours per semester for two semesters.

For Whom The Course Is Designed: This course is designed primarily for students working toward the completion of the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and will serve to satisfy the requirement of a second experimental/laboratory course in the major for these students. Students completing the Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology may enroll in this course with the permission of the Department of Psychology. Students considering graduate work in psychology or a related discipline especially are urged to complete this course regardless of the nature of the psychology degree that they are pursuing.

Catalog Description: The course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to initiate, design, analyze, and write-up an original experimental study in an area of interest to the student. Although the course is intended primarily for students who need to satisfy the requirement of a second experimental/laboratory course in the Bachelor of Science degree program, all students interested in this course will be considered on an individual basis.

Syllabus Psychology 4990 Senior Thesis

Prerequisites: The prerequisite for this course is the completion of Psychology 3140: Methods of Psychological Inquiry. However, it is strongly recommended that the student complete an experimental psychology lecture/laboratory course pairing before beginning a senior thesis investigation with no less than a grade of 'B' in each of these courses and a 'B' average in the major.

A letter of recommendation from the students PSYC 3140 and/or experimental laboratory instructor commenting on the student's qualifications and potential for experimental activity must be presented in support of the student's written request for permission to register for this class. The student must also see to it that a signed statement from a faculty member of the Department of Psychology stating that he or she is willing to serve as the primary advisor of the student's work is on file.

These application materials will be considered by the Chair of the Undergraduate Program Committee before granting permission to the student to register for this course.

The student may register for this course no earlier than the second semester of the Junior year.

Course Objectives: The course is designed to provide the student with the opportunity to initiate, design, analyze, and write-up an original experimental study in an area of interest to the student. It is expected, although not required, that the student will complete the course in time to submit the investigation for presentation to one or more national, regional, local, or university conferences or forums (e.g., departmental colloquium, honors convocation, etc) and/or for publication in an appropriate journal.

Organization: The course is to be completed under the supervision of a faculty member of the Department of Psychology. The course normally does not include participation in classroom meetings or classroom-related activities (although a faculty member who is advising several research projects at the same time may elect to meet with the students collectively at a predetermined time).

The student is expected to engage in informal discussions with the faculty advisor in developing an appropriate topic and methodology for investigation. From then on, the student will present a written proposal to a committee of two faculty members selected by the student, of which at least one must be from the Department of Psychology, who together with the primary advisor will compose the senior thesis committee. These faculty members will be responsible for evaluating the student's project before allowing the student to engage in data collection and final report writing.

If the student's project involves the use of human or animal subjects, the student must procure institutional review and approval of the project from the appropriate ethical review committee (e.g., IRB, IACUC) before the beginning of data collection.

Upon completion of the investigation, the student will present and defend the written thesis before the thesis committee that is responsible for evaluating the study. No grade is assigned until all members of the committee are satisfied with the final report that must include all revisions recommended by the committee members.

Resource Materials: There are no predetermined readings or supporting materials required in this course. However, it is expected that the student will be able to demonstrate considerable familiarity with the theoretical and experimental literature associated with the proposed area of research. The student is expected to demonstrate knowledge of the literature by providing a written research proposal that should include an acceptable Introduction, Method and Reference section. It is expected that the research proposal and final report will conform to the latest version of the American Psychological Association Style Manual.

Evaluation: The student will be evaluated primarily on the basis of the quality of the experimental effort and final report. Grading will use the standard letter grade approach. The letter grade will be assigned by the thesis advisor with the concurrence of the thesis committee members. It should be understood that scholarship is not the sole basis for evaluating the quality of the student's performance, but that professional conduct and comportment will be considered as well.

PSYCHOLOGY SENIOR THESIS PROPOSAL APPROVAL FORM

Name: _____ SS#: _____

Major Department: _____ Degree Sought: _____

.....
I approve: _____
(thesis proposal title)

THESIS SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

_____	_____	_____
Chairperson	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Committee Member	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Committee Member (Optional)	Signature	Date

.....
I understand the revisions (if any) to my proposal required or suggested by my Senior Thesis Supervisory Committee. A copy of the proposal and any revisions to it are filed in accordance with departmental policy.

Student's Signature	_____
	Date

.....
Approval from the Supervisory Committee must be obtained prior to beginning work on the Senior Thesis. These signatures do not reflect final approval of the completed thesis. Please give this form to your chairperson and have a copy put in your permanent file in the Psychology Department.

UNO PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
SENIOR THESIS COMPLETION REPORT

Graduation Date: _____

Name: _____

Social Security #: _____

Degree: _____ Major: _____

Thesis Title: _____

Thesis Hours: _____ Thesis Grade: _____

_____ has successfully passed the oral and written defense of the Psychology Senior Thesis (PSYC 4990). The signatures of the supervisory committee indicate final approval of the completed Senior Thesis.

THESIS SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

_____ Chairperson	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Committee Member	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Committee Member (Optional)	_____ Signature	_____ Date



The Chairperson of the student's Senior Thesis Supervisory Committee is responsible for filing this form in the student's file in the department and providing a copy to the Chair of the Psychology Undergraduate Program Committee.