

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ♦ SENIOR THESIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
PSYCH 428: Senior Thesis: Thesis Research for Psychology as a Natural Science
PSYCH 429: Senior Thesis: Thesis Research for Psychology as a Social Science

DESCRIPTION: These courses are for adequately prepared students doing their own independent research (design, data collection and data analysis) to be submitted to meet Departmental Senior Thesis Requirement. Students are also expected to present in the Annual Psychology Research Forum. For each credit hour received, the student will complete minimum 45 hours of work (approx. 3 hours per credit, per week for 15 weeks). Typically students will take this course for 2 semesters while completing data collection, analysis and writing of the thesis. Course credit is not retroactive and must be prearranged. Each thesis will be read by 2 faculty members who will determine whether the thesis meets departmental standards equivalent to those for an “advanced thesis.” Credit can be earned for the course independent of whether the thesis meets those requirements. *Students must have and maintain a 3.5 Psychology concentration GPA to enroll and complete the Senior Thesis option.* If the student feels that they may qualify for LSA Honors after their final semester, it is their responsibility to notify the Psychology SAA Office.

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES: Students shall have completed PSYCH 322/323, 326/327, 422/423 and/or have the equivalent research experience (e.g. PSYCH 331), Stats 350, and will be of senior standing when the thesis is completed.

APPROVAL STEPS:

Arrange for a faculty advisor...

- 1) Student contacts a psychology faculty member with research or academic interests in the area that they wish to explore.
- 2) Student and faculty member discuss proposed research, credit hours, how student’s work will be evaluated and expectations of working together.

Create a proposal...

- 3) Student works with their faculty advisor to create a proposal (approximately 1-2 pages) that addresses the following:
 - a. Student’s previous research experience; including faculty members, graduate students or others that they have done research with. If they have taken lab or independent study courses, please list the course, instructor and semester the course was taken.
 - b. Describe the research and its purpose.
 - c. If using the faculty advisor’s research lab, explain the student’s role in this lab and how they plan to integrate the data gathered from the lab into their own research.
 - d. Summarize the timeline for the project and include deadlines. If the research will extend beyond one semester, please note this in the proposal and explain what the student’s grade will be based on at the end the semester.
 - e. Attach an unofficial copy of the transcript with concentration GPA noted.
- 4) Faculty advisor reviews student’s proposal and notifies student that the proposal is acceptable or if any changes are required.
- 5) Once the student’s proposal has been approved by the faculty advisor, both will fill-out and sign the course proposal cover sheet.

Submit the proposal to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Chair and the Committee for Undergraduate Studies for approval...

- 6) Student then submits a copy of the proposal and this form to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office (SAA), which will then be submitted to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Chair and the Committee for Undergraduate Studies for review. Once the proposal has been reviewed, a staff member from the SAA will contact (via email) the student and faculty advisor.

Register for the course...

- 7) If the proposal has been approved, the student should return to the SAA to pick-up a photo copy of the proposal (comments or suggestions made by the Chair and/or Committee are often on this copy). Once the copy has been picked-up by the student, an electronic permission will be issued within 24 hours and the student will be responsible for registering for the course.
- 8) A new copy of the form (only) should be turned in to SAA for second semester to obtain an electronic permission to register.

FINAL THESIS: The final thesis should be written in the style of a journal article using APA format. The exact page length is not defined, but is typically 30-40 double-spaced pages, including appropriate references and figures. The thesis must be submitted to the faculty advisor, second reader and the Psychology SAA Office 2 weeks prior to the last day of scheduled classes [-Apr 1, Aug 1, Dec 1].

DEADLINES: All proposals must be submitted to the SAA at least one week prior to the regular add/drop deadline (this deadline is the first add/drop deadline and usually occurs within three weeks of the first day of classes). Once the proposal has been approved and a permission has been issued, students are responsible for registering before any applicable deadlines, including the add/drop deadline.

GRADE: A letter grade (A-E) will be issued for this course. A passing grade will not be posted until the student has submitted an electronic copy of the final project to the SAA Office. This copy should be turned in on the same date as listed above - Apr 1, Aug 1, or Dec 1.

NOTES: Students completing a Senior Thesis are still required to complete the Methods-based lab requirement. These courses **may** count towards the experiential lab requirement for the Psychology Concentration if taken for at least 3 credits. Brain, Behavior and Cognitive Science (BBCS) concentrators **may** use PSYCH 428 as one of their lab courses. We request that students check with a Psychology Advisor to determine if these courses will count for their concentration plan. This course may be repeated for a total of 8 credits & only one section of this course may be taken within a semester. No credit for students who have completed or are enrolled in PSYCH 424, 425, 426, or 427.

OPTION:

PSYCH 328: Research Lab for Psychology - Natural Science OR PSYCH 329: Research Lab for Psychology - Social Science

This option is available to students who are participating in regular research group staff meetings in their faculty sponsor’s lab. The research performed in the lab must be related to the research that the student is conducting in PSYCH 428 or 429. If choosing this option, students will generally register for their directed research course and the 1 credit research lab. These courses are not appropriate for students who are completing independent projects with faculty if there are no regular group meetings. If choosing this option, students electing PSYCH 428 (Natural Science) should register for PSYCH 328; students electing PSYCH 429 (Social Science) should register for PSYCH 329. These courses

are letter graded. Faculty who approve this option must send a course permission and have the student submit it to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office along with this proposal.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ♦ SENIOR THESIS PROPOSAL COVER SHEET
PSYCH 428: Senior Thesis: Thesis Research for Psychology as a Natural Science
PSYCH 429: Senior Thesis: Thesis Research for Psychology as a Social Science

~attach proposal behind this page~

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name (please print): _____ Email Address: _____

U of M ID# (middle eight digits of M-card): _____ Unique Name: _____

Current Concentration GPA: _____ I am a (circle one): Junior Senior

Signature: _____ Date: _____

List additional independent study courses that you have completed or will be taking. Please include the course number, semester and instructor:

COURSE INFORMATION

Thesis Title: _____

Course Track: 428 - Natural Science OR 429 - Social Science Credits (1 - 4): _____ (1 credit = 45 hours)

First Semester: _____ Semester _____ Year _____ Second Semester: _____ Semester _____ Year _____
(i.e. Fall 2006)

FACULTY ADVISOR INFORMATION

Name (please print): _____ Instructor Independent #: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Campus Mailing Address: _____ Campus Zip: _____

Email Address or Unique Name: _____

SECOND READER INFORMATION- Required, it is the responsibility of the mentor and student to obtain a 2nd reader

Name (please print): _____ Email Address or Unique Name: _____

~OFFICE USE ONLY~

PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHAIR/COMMITTEE REVIEW

Date Reviewed: _____

Denied Please contact _____ at (email or phone) _____
before (date) _____ if you would like to have your proposal reconsidered.

Approved Approved by: _____

Comments/Suggestions: See additional comments written on your proposal.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Student Submitted Proposal to SAA: ____/____/____ Received By: _____

Final Project Submitted to SAA: ____/____/____ Received By: _____