

For information about Psychology IV (the alternative BPsyc 4th year) see the Brochure "Psychology IV (BPsyc, 4th year – Alternative to BPsyc Hons" and the 4th year in Psychology Guide on the School website).

Honours in Psychology offered by the University of Wollongong is a fourth year of study accredited by the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC). It is offered on a one year full-time, or two year part-time basis.\*

Applications are accepted for Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) programs in Psychology.

Psychology Honours is a route to the Postgraduate coursework or research degrees in Psychology. It is also a partial qualification for registration as a Psychologist with the Psychology Board of Australia, a post degree supervision period also being required\*

Alternative accredited fourth years are available: the Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology and Psychology IV (the non-honours version of the B. Psych 4th year). Information about these can be obtained from the School of Psychology or this website:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/health/psyc/4thyear/index.html>

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### BA and BSc Students

Graduates of the University of Wollongong with a major in Psychology are eligible to seek admission to Psychology IV Honours, provided that:

- They have completed a major in Psychology;
- They have completed PSYC347, PSYC348 & PSYC354 (*Note:* and thus including pre-requisites for PSYC354);
- They have completed at least 76 credit points of Psychology subjects at 200- and 300- levels. (Applies to students first enrolled in psychology in 2003 or after and pursuing the psychology major revised at that time; for earlier enrolled students, they have completed at least 70 credit points of psychology subjects at 200- and 300- levels);
- They have at least a credit average for Psychology subjects at 200- and 300- levels.

### BPsyc Students

For current BPsyc students, proceeding to the BPsyc 4th year - either Psychology IV Honours, or Psychology IV - requires that:

- The student has completed the degree requirements at 100-, 200- and 300- level in Psychology and non-Psychology subjects;

- The student has only 48 credit points of 400 level Psychology remaining to complete the degree.

BA, BSc and BPsyc applicants must note that entry into Honours is competitive. For Wollongong graduates, the best 11 psychology subjects at 200- and 300- level are used for calculating entry. BPsyc students who are not accepted into the Honours program are offered the Psychology IV program.

Non-Wollongong Graduates require an equivalent qualification from another tertiary institution approved by the Council of the University of Wollongong and accredited by APAC. They need also to be eligible to apply for Honours in their own university or, if their university does not have an Honours program, to have completed a 300-level psychological statistics/research methods subject equivalent to PSYC354. Entry is competitive and is calculated on all undergraduate marks from the student's accredited major.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Honours program comprises:

- PSYC410 Honours Empirical Thesis (includes attendance at research groups)
- PSYC412 Honours Data Analysis
- PSYC485 Principles and Practices of Psychological Assessment

**Plus:** Either

- PSYC413 Honours Theory

And one of the optional subjects:

- PSYC484 Social Psychology & Health
- PSYC489 Advanced Abnormal Psychology
- PSYC478 Child & Adolescent Psychology

Or

- PSYC414 Honours Theoretical Thesis (includes participation in PSYC413 theory seminars)

**Note:** some attendance at PSYC488 Contemporary Issues for Professional and Research Psychologists is also required.

Candidates intending to complete Honours as part-time students will generally do PSYC412, PSYC485 plus PSYC414, or PSYC413 and one of the optional subjects in the first year, and PSYC410 in the second year.

## SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

### PSYC410 Honours Empirical Thesis

The Empirical Thesis consists of an individually supervised research project presented as a 12,000 word thesis. Research topics are drawn from the range of empirical research interests of the School staff and are in areas such as personality and social psychology, psychometrics, clinical psychology, psychophysiology, learning, cognition, perception, and development. Students are instructed and involved in all aspects of the research process: selection and justification of the topic, reviews of the relevant empirical and theoretical literature, design of the research, applying for ethics approval of the research, collection and analysis of data and interpretation of results.

### PSYC412 Honours Data Analysis

The emphasis of the subject is on the application of techniques in data analyses to practical problems, and issues pertaining to selection of an appropriate analysis will be discussed in depth. Towards the end of the subject, a number of case studies in data analysis will be presented and aimed at promoting the integration of old and new techniques for the analysis of data.

### PSYC413 Honours Theory

The Honours Theory Seminar examines key theoretical and metatheoretical issues in contemporary psychology, especially as they affect the specialisations and chosen subjects of the students. The subject also aims to sharpen critical reasoning and arguing skills.

### PSYC414 Honours Theoretical Thesis

An Honours theoretical thesis may be undertaken by Honours students, depending on the availability of suitable topics and supervisors. It consists of an individually tailored course of study assessed by a 7000 word (maximum) thesis. Theoretical theses topics may be drawn from very general metatheoretical topics like the mind/brain issue, topics in cognitive science, historical topics, through to more specific evaluations of theories, concepts and approaches, reviews and critical studies of research domains, to more "exotic" topics like psychology and aesthetics, or psychological themes in popular literature.

### PSYC478 Child & Adolescent Psychology

This subject will review a number of topics essential to understanding the nature of Child and Adolescent development and threats to normal functioning. For example, the subject covers advanced conceptual and theoretical discussion and knowledge concerned with what constitutes the nature of self control, information processing, and the structure of memory and the acquisition of reading skills in relation to developmental progression in children's development. This subject will also develop an understanding of the factors and conceptual underpinnings of the nature of at-risk-behaviour in childhood and adolescence. The focus of this subject will be on further developing a wider theoretical understanding of some of the most important issues in relation to threats to normal child and adolescent development.

### **PSYC484 Social Psychology & Health**

This subject addresses key theoretical and empirical issues in the area of Social Psychology and explains their implications for health behaviours. The focus is on the joint effects of internal and external processes in the causation and maintenance of human behaviours. Emphasis is placed on elaborating social physiological models of health behaviours, the roles of attitudes, values and beliefs in shaping different behaviours and the effects of conformity, compliance and life events on behaviour. A range of psychological and health principles will be examined within the context of formulating treatment and evaluation proposals or prevention programs designed to change social behaviours in relation to health issues, such as stress and coping strategies, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual behaviours, exercise and nutrition, and aged care. The applicability of major research findings across cultures will also be addressed.

### **PSYC485 Principles & Practices of Psychological Assessment**

The aim of this subject is to examine the principles underpinning psychological assessment and introduce students to the practices of psychological assessment. The subject is designed to integrate learning in previous years including theories of personality, intelligence combined with statistical theory and then examine how these issues are used in practice. Criteria to understand and evaluate psychological tests will be used as a common theme throughout the subject, including examination of their construct validity. The general ethical issues of psychological assessment will be compared to the specific Australian Psychological Society guidelines for psychological assessment. After examination of the theoretical principles, students will have the opportunity to administer, score and interpret commonly used assessment tools used to assess general intelligence, emotional intelligence, personality vocational preference and psychological well-being for adults and children.

### **PSYC488 Contemporary Issues for Professional & Research Psychologists**

The subject draws together key issues in ethics, research and professional practices in psychology. Ethics theory will be addressed and ethical and legal issues will be explored in research, therapeutic and professional settings. Other contemporary issues in experimental psychology and clinical practice including, for instance, the psychophysiology of ADHD, conflict resolution, funding applications, supervision and self care, reflective practice, etc. are also covered.

### **PSYC489 Advanced Abnormal Psychology**

This subject builds upon previous study in core areas of abnormal psychology, with contributions from personality, learning, and developmental psychology to consider the way theories of human behaviour help our understanding of psychopathology. Students will be expected to develop a critical and analytical understanding of the conceptual frameworks and assumptions of a number of major schools of abnormal psychology. The etiology and maintenance of clinical disorders will be examined from a variety of theoretical and research perspectives.

## **WHY STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG**

The School of Psychology offers excellent facilities and staff which guarantee high quality education and opportunities for first rate research. It boasts extensive computer facilities as well as teaching and research laboratories which are equipped with the latest technology and supported by a team of professional technical staff.

Students will find the pleasant atmosphere of the University of Wollongong campus a relaxing and enjoyable one in which to study.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information about this or any other courses offered by the School of Psychology, see the School website <http://www.uow.edu.au/health/psyc/>. Alternatively contact the School Administrative Assistants: by phone, (02) 4221 3742; or by email, [psysec@uow.edu.au](mailto:psysec@uow.edu.au).

Application forms are obtainable from the University of Wollongong, Northfields Avenue, Wollongong, 2522, or <http://www.uow.edu.au/prospective/apply/> and should be lodged with transcripts showing details of previous study. Applications close 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Note: This information was correct at the time of preparation (February 2011) but may change.


\* Our degrees are set up to meet the requirements of the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council. For information about the Council, visit [www.apac.psychology.org.au](http://www.apac.psychology.org.au). For information about professional bodies, their regulations, and about post university practice as a Psychologist, please contact the Australian Psychological Society at [www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au) and the Psychology Board of Australia at [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au) directly. The School's representative of the APS, Mitch Byrne, can also answer APS queries.



School of Psychology

# **Psychology IV(Honours)**

## **BA(Hons) BPsyc(Hons) BSc(Hons)**

University of Wollongong 

February 2011