

The School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences **Honors Program**

The Honors Program of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) serves students in five undergraduate areas of study: Child Learning and Development (CLDP), Cognitive Science (CGS), Neuroscience (NSC), Psychology (PSY) and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences (SPH). The mission of the program is to provide enriching educational experiences in a mentoring environment for academically gifted and highly motivated students. The program helps students get involved in research so that they may complete an Honors Thesis and gain the skills necessary to succeed in their graduate or professional work.

Qualifications for Admission

- Major in Child Learning and Development, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, Psychology, or Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences.
- At least 12 graded hours at UT Dallas including 2 core courses in the student's major
 - An overall UT Dallas GPA of at least 3.5

Junior Year – Fall Semester: Accept invitation and enroll in Honors Seminar

All BBS students will receive an email mid-semester stating the minimal criteria for admission to the Honors Program and inviting junior-level students who qualify to submit an enrollment form to the BBS Academic Support Coordinator. Students will be notified if they should enroll in the Honors Seminar course in the spring or complete the Alternate Activities Track.

Junior Year – Spring Semester: Participate in Honors Seminar

CLDP/CGS/NSC/PSY/SPAU 4375 – The seminar addresses skills of critical thinking, ethics, and effective written and oral communication. By the end of the Honors Seminar, all students also will have determined a thesis approach (empirical or library research), a research question, and a faculty mentor and second reader. Some students who are engaged in research in academic laboratories may qualify to substitute other activities for the Honors Seminar (NSC students, please see Dr. Tres Thompson; other students, please see Dr. M. Spence). Such students must independently determine their thesis type, research question, and faculty mentor and second reader by the end of the spring semester of their junior year.

Senior Year – Fall Semester: Enroll in Directed Research or Independent Study

Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in either 4v98 or 4v99 (Directed Research or Individual Study) with their faculty mentors to provide protected time to gather the data for their theses and evaluate and discuss their evidence with their faculty mentors and second readers.

Senior Year – Spring Semester (Or semester planning to graduate): Work on & submit thesis

1. Enroll in 4v97 (Thesis Research) with their faculty mentors to provide some protected time to write their theses and evaluate and revise their theses with the assistance of their faculty mentors and second readers. This is a graded course.
2. Students will receive an Honors Thesis Application at the beginning of the semester and should return this completed to the undergraduate Academic Support Coordinator. The student's proposed topic/type of thesis and his/her faculty mentor and second reader must be approved by the Undergraduate Associate Dean.
3. Meet with the faculty mentor on a weekly basis to complete the thesis. This will involve multiple cycles of drafts, faculty feedback, and revisions. Students are encouraged to develop a timeline with their faculty mentor to create milestones to help with completing their theses.
4. A complete draft of the thesis, including tables and references, must be turned into the faculty mentor and second reader **at least four weeks prior to the last day of classes**.
5. The completed Honors Thesis must be formatted in APA style and submitted in electronic form to Dr. M. Spence and the undergraduate Academic Support Coordinator by the assigned deadline. Each student must also submit his/her completed thesis to the TurnItIn portal found in the BBS Information Center on eLearning. Theses must be received by the due date for white Honors Stoles to be available to wear at commencement.
6. Students must provide Reader Evaluation Forms to their faculty mentor and second reader when the final thesis is submitted for review. These must be turned into the undergraduate Program Coordinator a week before grades are due. Acceptance of the Honors Thesis by the Honors Program requires a grade of at least B+ from both the faculty mentor and second reader and approval of the thesis by the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Graduation Qualifications

- At least 30 graded hours at UT Dallas
- At least 12 of those hours in BBS major core courses
 - An overall UT Dallas GPA of at least 3.5
- Successful completion of the Honors Seminar or approved alternate activities
- Successful completion of an Honors Thesis with a grade of at least B+ from both the faculty mentor and second reader

***For more information, please contact the
BBSHonors@utdallas.edu.***