

**The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Psychology  
An Overview of Thesis in Psychology (PSYC4008)  
(For psychology major students admitted in or before 2015/2016)**

Psychology major students will conduct an independent empirical investigation of a psychological problem. Thesis research will be supervised individually by teaching members of the Department. The thesis should be about 8000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices) and should follow the practice of communication in top psychology journals. Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admission into this course, and the admission is subject to the approval by the Department.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisites: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060; and

Co-requisites: PSYC3052 or PSYC3053 or PSYC3054 or PSYC3061 or PSYC3064 or PSYC3068.

**Overview**

A thesis writing or an independent research project is usually required by postgraduate programme(s). Some students who want to pursue further studies in Psychology and related fields would want to do a more ambitious thesis project (e.g., multiple studies, labor-intensive experiments and interview studies) supervised by a teaching staff in the department.

The thesis should include the followings:

- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Abstract
- Acknowledgement (if needed)
- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusion
- Reference

The grading criteria will be based on:

- Knowledge of the research topic
- Critical analysis
- Novelty and significance
- Design of study
- Data analysis and presentation
- Writing and organization

### **Eligibility**

A student needs to have an average GPA of 3.30 or above in advanced psychology courses taken in HKU by the end of the 3rd year for 4-year curriculum or 4th year for BEd&BSocSc students. Eligible students will be invited by the department at the beginning of July.

### **Application**

A student, who meets the above criterion and wants to take this course, is required to complete a [Supervisor Preference form](#) and upload it to the Moodle **before the end of enrollment period in August**. Your form will be sent to lecturers for consideration in the order of your preferences. The results of supervisor assignment will be announced before the end of add/drop period. Late application will not be considered.

If you will participate in an exchange program and want to take PSYC4008 in the same year, you have to seek prior approval for special arrangement. A [Special Approval Application form](#) should be submitted to the General Office before the end of enrollment period in August. Late application will not be considered.

### **Ethics Application**

Undergraduate thesis research is required to undergo ethics review by the Departmental Research Ethics Committee. Applications should be submitted before **15th November**.

Students on exchange to overseas in the 1st semester may submit their application in the 1st semester or before **15th January**.

Students on exchange to overseas and have applied to start doing their project in the 2nd semester, have to submit their application before **31st March**.

Late submission will be penalized. Failure to submit an ethics application will lead to a failure in the course. Please see more details of ethics application in the psychology web-page: ([https://www.psychology.hku.hk/?page\\_id=1814](https://www.psychology.hku.hk/?page_id=1814)).

### **Presentation of Research Project Proposal**

Around the end of November or early December, each student has to present his/her research project proposal to a small group of fellow students and two members of the departmental teaching staff. Each presentation and discussion will last about 20 minutes. This offers each student an opportunity to get more input before finalizing the research design for data collection.

### **Submission of Thesis**

1. The deadline of submission is **4:00p.m. 15<sup>th</sup> April**.  
If the submission day is a holiday, it will be postponed to the following working day.
2. All borrowed past theses or ARM/IS projects must be returned to the General Office on or before the deadline.
3. Please submit two hard copies (with cover page) of your thesis by the deadline to the General Office at Room 627, The Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus. Hard copies will not be returned to students. No specific format is required for binding a thesis.
4. The thesis must be uploaded to the Moodle on or before the deadline.
  - a) Please submit in one single file in PDF format including all the chapters.
  - b) All covering pages, pictures, tables and charts must be included in appropriate position of the file.
  - c) Please do not submit data files, e.g. SPSS or Excel files.
5. The penalty for late submission is one mark for each calendar day, including Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.
6. Extension of submission deadline can only be granted on health ground and all the followings are necessary: a letter from a health professional; prior approval from the supervisor's consent and the Chief Examiner.
7. Make sure that due acknowledgement is given when referring or quoting from literature, books, webpages, essays or any other information sources.
8. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given if the work contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied, including a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to your Faculty for consideration of possible disciplinary action. Please be sure to read the website to know more about how to avoid plagiarism: <http://www.rss.hku.hk/plagiarism/>
9. All raw data and research materials must be retained. The department may invite you for an oral examination in addition to the submission of thesis.

**Frequently Asked Questions** (Click [here](#))

**Standard Timeline for PSYC4008**

Beginning of July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Department to invite eligible students to apply for taking thesis in the following academic year.</li> </ul>
Before the end of enrollment period in August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students to submit <b><u>Supervisor Preference form</u></b> to the Moodle for the Department to proceed supervisor assignment.</li> <li>● Late application will not be considered.</li> </ul>
Before the end of add/drop period in September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Department to announce the results of supervisor assignment to students via email.</li> </ul>
Before 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students to submit <b><u>ethics application form</u></b> to the General Office.</li> </ul>
Late November / early December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students to present his/her research project proposal.</li> </ul>
After presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students to work on his/her research project and write up the theses.</li> </ul>
4:00p.m. 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><u>Theses submission deadline</u></b></li> </ul>