

An Overview of Thesis in Psychology (PSYC4008)

(For psychology major) 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 9,000 to 10,000 words (exclusive of tables, bibliographies and appendices). Eligible students will be invited by the Department to apply for admissions into this course. Approval by Departmental Head is required for admissions into this course. Assessment: 100% coursework.

Prerequisite: PSYC1001 and PSYC1004 and PSYC2060/PSYC0060; and

Co-requisite: PSYC3052/PSYC0052 or PSYC3053/PSYC0053 or
PSYC3054/PSYC0054 or PSYC3061/PSYC0061 or
PSYC3064/PSYC0064 or PSYC3068/PSYC0008

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Overview

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 Title Page, Table of Contents, Abstract, Acknowledgement (if needed), Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, Conclusion and 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. A thesis writing or an independence research project is usually required by postgraduate programme(s). To apply for this option:

- A student needs to have an average B+ or better (GPA 3.3 or above) in advanced psychology courses by the end of the 2nd year for 3-year curr (3rd year for 4-year curr ; 4th year for BEd&BSocSc students). The Department will notify students who meet this criterion at the beginning of July.

Application

A student, who meets the above criterion and wants to take this course, will need to fill out a [Supervisor Preference form](#) and return the form to the Department before the end of enrollment period on August. Your form will be sent to lecturers for consideration in the order of your preferences. The result of assigning supervisor will be announced in the first week of the 1st semester. Late application may not be considered.

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

Ethics Application

Undergraduate thesis research is required to undergo ethics review by the Department Ethics Panel. 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 details of ethics application in Psychology web-page (http://www.psychology.hku.hk/~main/?page_id=1814).

Presentation of Research Project Proposal

Around the end of November, 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 15 April.
2. All borrowed theses, IS projects or ARM projects **must be returned** to the General Office on the same day.
3. TWO hard copies and a softcopy (see guideline below) of your thesis should be submitted to the General Office by the deadline. **Hard copies and softcopy of thesis will not be returned to students.**
4. No specific format is required for binding a thesis.
5. The penalty for late submission is one mark for one day except 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 Department Head; and supervisor's consent.

7. Give due acknowledgement when quoting from the literature. Retain all raw data and research materials. The Department may require an oral examination in addition to thesis submission.

Guidelines for submitting softcopy

1. Student should submit one single file in Microsoft Word format including all chapters.

2. Covering page, pictures, tables and charts must be included in appropriate position of the Word file. Please do not submit data file(s) e.g. SPSS or Excel file.

3. You may submit a CD in which the file is stored.

4. For any enquiries about the format of the soft copy, please contact Mr. Wu at fhwu@hku.hk

Note: If the submission day is a holiday, it will be postponed to the following working day.