

Guidelines for Preparation of the Both Types of Honours Theses

- a) The thesis should be typed on good quality bond paper (20 lb.), 8-½" x 11" with margins of 1-½" on the left side and 1" on all other sides.
- b) The thesis must be typewritten and double-spaced, except for long quotations, footnotes, legends, and tables. Final copies of a thesis produced on a computer should be laser printed, although letter-quality dot matrix may be acceptable. Font should be no smaller than 10 characters per inch.
- c) **One** copy of the thesis should be submitted to your advisor. The candidate will ensure that all errors the advisor are corrected and that it is identical in every respect to the approved thesis.

Empirical Research Thesis

If you choose to complete an Empirical Research Thesis, you will be required to develop your own research study (in consultation with your faculty advisor). This includes reviewing existing literature, designing an ethically sound study (approval from the university ethics board will be necessary), gathering and analyzing data, recording the results, and writing a conclusion about your results. The Empirical Research Thesis should be organized as follows:

- 1) Preliminary Pages:
 - a. Title page
 - b. Abstract (250-300 words)
 - c. Acknowledgements (optional)
 - d. Table of contents
 - e. List of tables
 - f. List of figures
- 2) Body of the Thesis:
 - a. The empirically-based honours thesis will normally consist of 5 sections: Introduction; Method; Results; Discussion/Conclusions; References.
 - b. Each of these major sections of the paper should begin on a new page. The title of each section (e.g., Introduction) should be centered, left-right.
 - c. All other pages should be numbered in sequence, in the top right corner of the page.
 - d. The reference section of the thesis should include all sources cited in the text and formatted in APA style (see Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association).
 - e. Figures and Tables should be included at the appropriate point in the text. Table captions should appear above the table, and figure captions should appear below the figure.

- f. Footnotes should appear at the bottom of the relevant pages. All footnotes should be numbered in sequence throughout the thesis.
- 3) Appendices:
- a. A copy of all materials used in the conduct of the thesis study should be included in an Appendix. These materials include (where relevant) approval from the ethics committee, consent form, instructions given to participants (whether oral or written) and questionnaires.

Literature Review Thesis

This thesis is a review of the research and theory in a focused area or problem in psychology. Topics may be selected from a list assigned by the course coordinator or chosen in consultation with a faculty supervisor. Note that if you choose to complete this thesis, you will need to have a faculty member from the department supervise your work. You should contact potential advisors during your third year.

A thesis is an idea or premise that you want to test out by the evidence that exists in the published research. You should be able to define your “thesis” clearly at the outset. The review will be critical and analytical, using knowledge and concepts that are learned in PSYC 3P30. You are advised to use your textbook and notes from that course while preparing your thesis.

The literature review must be thorough enough to cover all of the published papers and books relevant to your topic. Begin with a PsycINFO search and use it with skill and care. Be prepared to use interlibrary loan or travel to other universities to tap into their library resources.

Students who complete this thesis often wonder how many references they will need. In most cases, you will find at least fifty, but often you will find more.

APA style must be followed with care. The organization of the thesis will be similar to that of the Empirical thesis, except that there will be no sections (e.g., “Method”, “Results”, etc.). Rather, the Literature Review Thesis will be divided into chapters with headings appropriate for the topic being discussed.