

## Proposal for Independent Research (PSCH 399) Project for Highest Departmental Distinction in Psychology

All students planning to graduate with Highest Departmental Distinction in Psychology must complete PSCH 399: Independent Research, under the supervision of a faculty advisor. See the college catalog for specific requirements for graduating with Highest Distinction. This document serves as the proposal for the PSCH 399 project and the required paper. *This proposal must be approved by the Faculty Advisor, and submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Advising to be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.* The student's final paper for the independent research must be reviewed and accepted by the Departmental Reading Committee that consists of the Faculty Advisor, the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and an additional faculty reader.

PSCH 399: Independent Research is a highly intensive, independent research project. The project may take a number of forms, including the following: (a) conducting new analyses on data previously collected by the Faculty Advisor\*; (b) crafting a comprehensive critical review of the literature on a chosen topic; (c) designing a new study and collecting your own data\*. The final paper must include a rationale for the study or review of the literature; description of research methods (or methodology of the literature review), presentation of the results, and a discussion of interpretation of the findings and implications for future research. This paper must be completed in APA style. Beyond filling catalog prerequisites for the course, students often choose one of three specific paths to completion of PSCH 399:

- 1) Many students enroll in at least one semester of \*\*PSCH 396: Directed Research in preparation for PSCH 399. The faculty member who supervises your work for PSCH 396 would in this case be an ideal option for your Faculty Advisor for completion of PSCH 399. The Faculty Advisor may have data available to you that you may want to use and conduct additional analyses for your PSCH 399 project. Most students following this path elect PSCH 399 only in their final semester.
- 2) Some student may choose to enroll in \*\*PSCH 397: Readings in Psychology in preparation for PSCH 399. The faculty member with whom you enroll in PSCH 397 would in this case be an ideal option for your Faculty Advisor for completion of PSCH 399. PSCH 397 provides an opportunity to conduct readings or a review of the literature with guidance of a faculty member on a topic of interest to you. These readings can be excellent preparation for your PSCH 399 project. Most students following this path elect PSCH 399 only in their final semester.
- 3) Some students choose to elect PSCH 399 without PSCH 396 or 397 as preparation Because the scope necessary to complete a project that will earn credit in PSCH 399, some students may wish to elect \*\*PSCH 399 for each of their last two semesters. Students who are able to complete the project in only one semester would enroll in PSCH 399 only during their final semester.

It is highly recommended that students set a timeline for completion of said paper that allows for revisions. In order to be read by all members of your reading committee in time for grades to be updated, the FINAL paper should be submitted to each reader no later than the last Friday of classes in the final semester in which PSCH 399 is elected.

\*Please note that conducting analyses or collecting new data involving human subjects must go through appropriate IRB protocols before any data are collected or analyses performed. This can be a time-consuming process, so it is recommended that students be proactive in working with their Faculty Advisor to learn how to ensure that their research activities are covered by new or existing IRB protocols. Students are strongly encouraged to complete online IRB training prior to enrolling in PSCH 399.

**\*\*Note that students are limited to 8 credits maximum for research in PSCH 396, 397, and 399 combined\*\***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UIN: \_\_\_\_\_

UIC E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Consent: *I have read the front of this application, and understand the requirements for successful completion of PSCH 399.*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Type in name approved for Fall 2021)

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Reading Committee (note - The faculty advisor should be affiliated with the Department of Psychology):

Faculty Advisor (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Faculty Reader (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Credits: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

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Proposal Summary:

**\*\* Please attach a brief (1 page) summary of the project that will be completed. \*\***

The proposal should include the following:

- Project Title
- Background – a brief summary of the general topic and significance of the proposed project
- Approach – including brief descriptions of the methods and/or scope of literature
- Description of the final paper to be independently produced by the student

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Faculty Consent: There are two ways your Faculty Advisor can consent for you to complete PSCH 399 under their CRN.

1. Your faculty advisor can send an email to [laspsychology@uic.edu](mailto:laspsychology@uic.edu). The email should include your (student) name and UIN. They need to indicate that they have read and approve your proposal for 399 credit. (see template below. Also, specify the semester and number of credits PSCH 399 will be completed for.
2. Your faculty advisor can physically sign this sheet in the space provided below:

*I have read the front of this application, and understand the requirements for my student advisee to successfully complete PSCH 399. I have furthermore read and approved the attached proposal for PSCH 399 credit.*

Faculty Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Due: by 4pm on the second Wednesday of the Semester***

Email your completed Proposal to [laspsychology@uic.edu](mailto:laspsychology@uic.edu) by 4pm on the Wednesday of Week 2 in the semester you plan to enroll

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Psychology Advisors will submit completed proposals to Director of Undergraduate Studies for approval.

Undergraduate Psychology Advisor and Director of Undergraduate Studies Consent: *I have read and approved the attached proposal for PSCH 399 credit.*

Undergraduate Psychology Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Undergraduate Studies Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Faculty Consent Email Template

If your Faculty Advisor will approve your proposal via email, send them a copy of the email template below with your information included. The Faculty Advisor can then forward this message to [laspsychology@uic.edu](mailto:laspsychology@uic.edu). This will serve as their approval of your 399 enrollment.

### Template:

I give my student, <STUDENT NAME> (UIN:<STUDENT UIN>), permission to enroll in PSCH 399 under my CRN. <STUDENT NAME> will take PSCH 399 for <CREDITS> during the Spring 2021 semester. I have read the student's proposal entitled "<PROJECT TITLE GOES HERE>" and understand the requirements for my student to successfully complete PSCH 399.