# DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
# COURSE PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
# PSYCH 428: Senior Thesis: Thesis Research for Psychology as a Natural Science

**DESCRIPTION:** These courses are for adequately prepared students doing their own independent research (design, data collection and data analysis) to be submitted to meet Departmental Senior Thesis Requirement. Students are also expected to present in the Annual Psychology Research Forum. The student will complete minimum 45 hours of work (approx. 3 hours per credit, per week for 15 weeks), for each credit hour. Typically, students will take this course for 2 semesters while completing data collection, analysis and writing of the thesis. Course credit is not retroactive and must be prearranged. Each thesis will be read by 2 faculty members who will determine whether the thesis meets departmental standards equivalent to those for an "advanced thesis." Credit can be earned for the course independent of whether the thesis meets those requirements. *Students must have and maintain a 3.5 Psychology concentration GPA to enroll and complete the Senior Thesis option*. If the student feels that they may qualify for LSA Honors after their final semester, it is their responsibility to notify the Psychology SAA Office.

**APPROVAL STEPS:**

1. **Student Arranges Research, Credit, Hours, Expectations with Psych Faculty member**

2. **Create a proposal (1-2 pages), including:**
   a. Student's previous research experience
   b. Describe the research and its purpose.
   c. Explain the student's role in this lab and how he/she plans to integrate the data.
   d. Describe the final paper. Note: **A paper of 5-7 pages per credit is required**.
   e. Summarize the timeline for the project and include deadlines.
   f. Note how often, when and where the student will meet with the faculty member.

3. **Submit the proposal to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Chair and the Committee for Student Academic Affairs for approval via the Independent Study Application.**

   Note: Once the proposal has been reviewed, approval or request for revisions will be emailed to the student and faculty member. If any comments or suggestions are made by the Chair and/or Committee, they will be communicated to the student.

4. **Register for the course (the Psych SAA will process a permission once the proposal has been accepted).**

**DEADLINES:** All proposals must be submitted to the SAA at least one week prior to the regular add/drop deadline (this deadline is the first add/drop deadline and usually occurs within three weeks of the first day of classes). Theses are due on December 1 (Fall), April 1 (Winter), or August 1 (Spring/Summer).

**GRADE:** A letter grade (A-E) will be issued for this course. A passing grade will not be posted until the student has submitted a copy of the final project to the SAA Office via email. ***This copy should be turned in no later than the last day of scheduled classes.***

**NOTES:** We request that students check with a Psychology Advisor to determine if/how this course will count for their major plan. This course may be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Only one section of this course may be taken within a single term.