

UNIVERSITY OF  
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Thanks for your interest in the Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours) program at the University of Canberra (UC).

An Honours degree builds on knowledge and skills acquired during undergraduate study and helps to prepare for a professional career in psychology. Honours is a dedicated fourth year of tertiary study during which students are given considerable autonomy and independence in developing learning, research, and organisational skills whilst working under the supervision of experienced academic staff. Half of the Honours course is coursework focused on applied topics and skills and the other half consists of an independent research thesis.

Studying Honours provides a vital capstone to an undergraduate psychology degree. A successful Honours degree provides opportunity to continue in the psychology profession by qualifying to undertake an internship or entering a Masters or PhD program. Honours is a period of intense social, professional, and intellectual development during which students become better acquainted with features of academic life such as seminars, workshops, peer review, research design and communication of scientific findings.

Honours in Psychology can be an incredibly rewarding experience, especially in undertaking an own original research project. In this way, you can study a topic of particular interest and contribute new knowledge in a chosen field, whilst experiencing the benefits of working in a close, collegial way with an academic expert. Students commonly report that their Honours study was the most challenging, but also the most rewarding, of their university career.

The Discipline of Psychology is located within the School of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Health at UC. The Discipline of Psychology offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) and approved by the Psychology Board of Australia (PBA). Staff who work within the discipline are engaged in a range of applied research and teaching in fields such as health psychology, social psychology, cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, sport psychology, forensic psychology, and environmental psychology.

Links:

- <https://www.canberra.edu.au/about-uc/faculties/health/study/psychology>
- <https://www.psychologycouncil.org.au>
- <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au>

The Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours) course at UC requires completion of 24 credit points, consisting of:

1. **Honours Thesis in Psychology** (12 credit points)
2. **Research Methods in Psychology** (3 credit points)
- 3.





## **4.7 Other options**





## 5.1 List of units

The Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Honours) is a 24-credit point course which consists of the following components:

1. **7366 Honours Thesis in Psychology** (12 credit points): An empirical thesis, worth 50% of the overall final grade. For the thesis, design a research project, collect empirical data and report it in a thesis with a length of between 10,000 and 12,000 words.
2. **10112 Research Methods in Psychology PG** (Semester 1, 3 credit points): Advanced research methods, design, ethics, data analysis, and related issues in applied psychological research.
3. **11760 Issues in Psychological Research and Practice PG** (Semester 1, 3 credit points): Ethical and professional issues in psychology, the role of research in practice, cultural competence, emerging and priority areas for research and practice of psychology.
4. **6489 Psychological Measurement in PG** (Semester 2, 3 credit points): Techniques in psychological measurement, testing, assessment.
5. **9815 Counselling Psychology PG** (Semester 2, 3 credit points): An introduction to counselling psychology theory and skills.

## 5.2 Timetable

Classes are offered during

**Part-time (3-semester)**

## 6.1 7366 Honours Thesis in Psychology

Description: <https://www.canberra.edu.au/unit/7366/6/2024>

Convener: Dr Janie Busby Grant

Credit points: 12 (Semester 1 and 2)

Pre/co-requisites: 10112

Class contact: workshops + supervision

*Syllabus:* The syllabus is based on the requirements of the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council. Students will undertake an individual supervised research project in psychology, comprising topic definition, literature review, design, data collection and analyses, and write up a thesis of between 8,000 and 10,000 words. The project will be conducted within appropriate ethical guidelines. The topic will reflect the mutual interests of supervisor and student.

*Learning outcomes:* On successful completion of the unit, students will be able to:

1. Design and execute a research project relating to a psychological issue to a standard acceptable to the profession;
2. Independently undertake an analysis of data derived from quantitative and/or qualitative designs in psychology;

### **6.3 11760 Issues in Psychological Research and Practice PG**

*Description:*







Staff member	Research interests
Dimitry Crisp	Mental health and wellbeing (in students, health professionals, and older adults); help-seeking and mental health literacy. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Andrew Flood	Neuropsychology (particularly the neurophysiology of pain); Sports psychology (particularly the psychological aspects of endurance exercise performance). <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Amanda George	Risk-taking behaviours among young adults (alcohol and other drug use, risky driving); social anxiety; personality psychology <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Phil Kavanagh	Evolutionary psychology; social psychology; personality psychology; life history theory; evolutionary mismatch; sociometer theory; self-esteem; the Dark Triad; narcissism, Machiavellianism; psychopathy; evolutionary models of psychopathology. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Richard Keegan	Interoception and Emotional Awareness; Resilience (sport, military); Qualitative methods; Effectiveness of Applied/Clinical Practice. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Sally Kelty	Social/forensic psychology including the role of friendships, cultural identity in bystander invention in coercive control, elder abuse, mapping the social psychological variables in serious criminal investigations. Organisational/management psychology. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Vivienne Lewis	Body image; Eating disorders; Well-being and mental health. Qualitative Researcher. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
James Neill	Adventure therapy; Cyberpsychology; Emotion; Environmental psychology; Motivation; Outdoor education; Positive psychology; Educational psychology; Outdoor education; Volunteering; Wellbeing interventions. <a href="#">View Profile</a>
Caroline Ng	Multicultural identities and psychological well-being; diversity ideologies; intergroup relations; social psychology. <a href="#">View Profile</a>



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**Staff member**

**Research interests**

Honours Classifications are based on a final mark for the course which is calculated as the weighted average of unit marks. Part final marks are rounded up to a whole number. UC grade/mark cut-offs are then applied:

- H1 = HD (85+) (1)