Requirements for applying to Honours in Psychology

- Minimum GPA of 70%;
- Minimum PSYC GPA of 75%;
- 60 credit hours (completed & graded);
- Arts core (BA) or Science Cognate (BSc) classes completed;
- Honours Program Application Form (provided on Psychology website);
- letter of intent;
- Unofficial copies of ALL undergraduate transcripts.
Application details:

- Application made to Department of Psychology
- February 1 (of year intending to enrol in PSYC 400AA)
  - Letter of intent
    - Reasons for pursuing honours
    - Areas of interest
    - Future plans
  - List of potential supervisors
    - **Rank order**
    - Up to 5
Decisions

- Undergraduate and Honours Committee (UHC)
  - Review applications
  - Applications categorized:
    - A = deemed acceptable
      - Eligible supervisor
      - Competitive GPA (e.g., 80%)
      - Intention to pursue graduate studies
      - Quality of written application
    - X = deemed unacceptable
      - No supervisor named
      - GPA not competitive
      - Rationale for applying vague/inappropriate
    - B = all other applications
  - Faculty members given list of eligible students
  - Supervisor will advise UHC
  - Applicants will be notified of results
Conditional acceptance

- If accepted, you may receive a letter of conditions
  - Conditions MUST be met by August 31
  - Failure to complete the conditions will void the acceptance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of honours class</th>
<th>% of qualified applicants accepted</th>
<th>Total accepted and matched</th>
<th>Not matched</th>
<th>Not eligible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is involved?

- Completion of a thesis
  - Empirical
  - Theoretical
  - Meta-analysis
  - Secondary data analyses (e.g., StatsCan)
- Registration in honours seminar
- Additional course requirements
What have our honours graduates gone on to pursue?

- Graduate programs in:
  - Clinical, Experimental, Counseling, and Educational Psychology
  - Behavioural Neuroscience; Public Policy; Human Resource Development; Health Science; Occupational Therapy; Speech Pathology; Social Work; Gerontology; Justice Studies; Criminology; Kinesiology; Physiotherapy; Environmental Studies; Sociology; Biology
- Medical School
- Pharmacy
- Law
Getting into grad school in Psychology
Outline

- Streams
- Reality
- Research experience
- GRE
- Funding
- Application process
  - School selection
  - Statement of interest
  - Reference letters
- Alternatives
- Improving your chances
Streams

- Clinical
- Experimental
- Both require a significant research component

- Social, developmental, cognitive, health, forensic, neuro, industrial/organization, stats/methods, counselling, school, community etc.
Reality

Getting in is tough

- Minimum GPA requirements (depends on the school)
- Most programs admit 6-10 students each year

Examples:

- 5% of applicants are admitted at SFU
- 7% of clinical applicants admitted to U of R

**See CPA graduate guide**
Research experience

- Volunteer in a lab (or two…)
  - ANY lab
  - Experience and letters
- Be willing to do very basic tasks
- Not likely paid
- Presentation/ publication possibilities
GRE

- **Subject**
  - Can be taken in Regina or Saskatoon
  - Offered at one location or both in April, September, and October (typically)
  - Must sign up ahead of time

- **General**
  - Only in Saskatoon
  - Prometric testing centre
  - Book ahead – 306-978-0414

- **STUDY!**
  
  https://www.ets.org/gre
Funding

- Apply!
- Check out FGSR website
  - Contact FGSR with questions

- NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR
  - Late Nov-ish deadline to psych dept.

- Undergrad USRA award (NSERC)

- Look for additional sources
  - E.g., OGS
Grad School Application Process

- Costly
- School selection
  - Identify schools of interest
  - E-mail potential advisors
    - Your interests
    - Inquire if taking students
- Start process summer before applications due
Grad School Application Process

- Statement of interest
  - Tailor to individual faculty members
  - Have someone read it over
  - Must be provided to your referees
  - “Do not write a lot of schmaltz about wanting to save the world.”
  - Show focused interest, with flexibility
Application Process

- Reference letters
  - Required materials
  - Other guidelines
  - Timeline
  - Sending letters
  - Adding schools to your list

- Make it easy for the letter writer!
Alternatives

- **Experimental**
  - Requires Ph.D.

- **Clinical**
  - Can practice with MA in some provinces (may change)
  - Registration process more difficult
  - Consider
    - Counselling, school psychology, social work
Improving your chances

- Research experience
- Publish, publish, publish
- Attend conferences
  - Even if not presenting
  - Present when possible
  - Introduce yourself to potential supervisors
- Funding