

Honors Program in the Psychological Sciences:  
Information that might be useful in  
Identifying a Mentor

Identifying an appropriate faculty mentor is a critical part of getting started in the honors program. Although there are a number of resources available to help with this process, identifying and contacting potential mentors, and then garnering their agreement to serve as one's sponsor in the Honors Program is primarily the student's responsibility. This handout is meant to provide some helpful information to make the process easier and more productive.

If you are not already working in someone's laboratory, or don't otherwise have a mentor in mind, you can begin your search by looking through the list of Psychological Sciences Faculty linked elsewhere on the program webpage. Qualified faculty from other Departments can also sometimes serve as mentors, with permission of the honors program directors. VU Medical Center faculty who do not have a joint or courtesy appointment in the Psychology or Psychology and Human Development departments are typically not approved without a co-mentor on the Psychological Sciences faculty.

Email potential mentors with a brief paragraph including:

- your name, major and year (e.g. Sophomore)
- that you are interested in obtaining a mentor for the Honors Program
- what aspect of the faculty's research you are interested in, specifically
- a question asking if the faculty member is available to take a new Honors student
- times available to meet to discuss it further

Current Honors students can often be a helpful resource in the process of finding a mentor. Your primary concerns should be identifying potential faculty with whom you have shared interests and with whom you are confident that you will have a training experience of high intellectual value. You might also consider visiting your current or past professors during their office hours to talk about your interests in the program and your research interests. Even if they don't have interests that match yours, s/he can often point you to colleagues who might be a better fit. As co-directors of the program, we will also do our best to guide you should you need assistance.

Happy hunting, and if we can be of help with this, please let us know.

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