Social Health Lab Information for Honours Students (2024-2025)

We are excited that you will be conducting your Honours research project in our lab! Please familiarize yourself with the guidelines below and reach out to Dr. Chen, or the graduate student/postdoc supervising you, if you have any questions.

As an Honours student in the SHL, you are expected to commit to 8-10 hours/week of **lab work**, which includes activities such as: poster/flyer making; emailing, recruiting, scheduling, running participants; creating and piloting experiment materials; data coding; data entry and cleaning; troubleshooting equipment issues; lab meetings, meetings with your grad student/postdoc supervisor, and meetings with Dr. Chen. Lab work also includes background research and/or analyses that Dr. Chen and/or your grad student/postdoc supervisor specifically asks you to complete (even if you might eventually use this research/analyses for your Honours project).

Lab work does **not** include tasks you're completing primarily for your course credit requirements (e.g., writing your Honours paper; background research or reading for your Honours papers that Dr. Chen/your grad student/postdoc supervisor has *not* specifically asked you to complete) or out-of-lab activities that are part of your Honours requirements (e.g., PURC, MURC). Please DO keep a record of these activities on your own -- we very much value and encourage you to spend adequate time on these activities (and a record of this can be very helpful for us when writing reference letters). If you are unsure whether a task counts as “lab work,” please ask Dr. Chen or the grad student/postdoc supervising you.

In the early fall (Sept-Oct), you should meet with Dr. Chen and the grad student/postdoc supervising you to discuss and finalize a research question and analysis plan. You will have two optional opportunities to receive feedback from your grad student/postdoc supervisor on sections of your writing for your Honours thesis. Your grad student/postdoc supervisor will provide one round of high-level feedback (not line-editing) on your (1) intro+methods section, as well as your (2) results section, if you send a draft at **least one week in advance of your class deadline for that section**.

In late March or early April, you are expected to present your honours project at the Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (PURC). You should send a draft of your conference abstract, as well as your poster/presentation slides, to Dr. Chen and the grad student/postdoc supervising your project at **least 2 weeks in advance of the submission deadlines**. Please go ahead and put a reminder in your calendar now—for the beginning of March—so that you do not forget this important step. Remember that you will be representing the lab! You should provide all of your presentation co-authors (who will typically include Dr. Chen and the grad student/postdoc supervising your project) sufficient time to review and approve your presentation materials before you submit them. If annual budgets allow, the lab will pay for up to $50 of your poster printing costs. 36x48 is a standard size poster and should cost between $50-65 (including tax) when ordered for pickup from [https://www.staples.ca/](https://www.staples.ca/). Alternately, posters can be printed at CopieSmart (PSA members receive a 10% discount).

You should consult with Dr. Chen and the grad student/postdoc supervising you before submitting your paper for publication in an undergraduate journal or in a repository such as UBC cIRcle. Especially when your results are part of a study that has not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal, making your written document publicly available may not be advisable, as it can result in confusion in the scientific literature and other conflicts of interest. Dr. Chen and the grad student/postdoc supervising you can provide advice about avoiding these issues.