

## BROWN BAG POLICY

Brown Bag presentations are valuable for both the student presenter and the student listener because they give presenters practice in explaining their research to a broad audience and give listeners practice in comprehending presentations that are outside of their area of expertise. A good presentation sets the research in a broad context that makes its importance clear to a general audience. Accordingly, every student is required to make two presentations at the Psychology Brown Bag during his or her tenure in the program, one during the spring of the first year and one during fall of the second year. The first will summarize either a first-year project or research topic that the student is interested in pursuing for their thesis. The second will summarize the research project (either as proposed if data collection is not yet complete, or with results if completed) for the student's thesis or applied project. All MS Psychology students are required to attend all Brown Bag presentations. Absences must be cleared in advance with one's advisor and the Director.

### FIRST YEAR BROWN BAG PRESENTATIONS.

First year presentations will be flexible in content and format; students can discuss a research idea, articles related to their research area, or research findings. It might be most beneficial, however, that presentations have the same format as national or regional conference presentations. In other words, student should prepare a 10-15 minute presentation and be prepared to answer questions during a 5-minute Q&A session. Up to **three** students will present per brown bag session during the Spring semester. We will hold a reception to celebrate all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year achievements during the final brown bag of the Spring semester.

### SECOND YEAR BROWN BAG PRESENTATIONS.

Presentations are to be 20-30-minute talks, followed by a 5-10 minute question and answer period. These presentations are to be similar to an invited colloquia. They should summarize the research project a student is working on for their thesis with sufficient background on the theoretical framework guiding their study. The student's advisor will help the student prepare these presentations. Ordinarily, the student will give a practice talk that the advisor and a few other students critique before giving the Brown Bag presentation. Presenters should expect evaluative feedback regarding the form and content of the presentation from the audience. Audience feedback is expected to be friendly, constructive, and brief. There will be up to **two** student presentations per brown bag session in the Fall semester.

Note on all presentations: You do **NOT** need to have data for your presentation – you can present your proposed idea for your thesis/applied project. Also, for Thesis students, if you want you can use the brownbag to fulfill your prospectus requirement (*with approval from your advisor and committee members*). Please review the prospectus format with your advisor and determine if the brownbag would be a good venue to do your prospectus defense. If so, then you would need to send the written document to your committee at least a week prior to the presentation.