

## **THE HONORS PROGRAM**

### **Program Description and Guidelines**

The Department of Anthropology's Honors Program gives special recognition and special opportunities for a year-long research project and faculty mentorship to those students who have distinguished themselves in their coursework in the Department and throughout the University. Required for admission to the program are:

- a major in Anthropology
- a cumulative G.P.A. at the end of the junior year of at least 3.0
- a departmental G.P.A. of at least 3.5.

We especially encourage those students who intend to pursue graduate work in anthropology or another academic discipline, or those whose intended careers will demand skills in extended research and writing, to apply to the Honors Program. Every eligible student should, however, seriously consider applying. One caveat: completion of the Honors Program does not guarantee graduation with University Honors, which can be granted only by The Committee on Examinations and Standing.

The Anthropology Honors Program includes the following classes to be taken in the Senior year:

Fall semester:	ANTH 493 (Senior Research Preparation, one credit)
	ANTH 490 (Directed Honors Research, three credits)
Spring semester:	ANTH 491 (Directed Honors Research, three credits)

### **Goals**

*Through the Honors Program, students will:*

- Integrate their anthropology coursework into a rigorous, year-long, independent research project;
- Develop professional skills in the field of Anthropology, such as in depth research, writing, and oral and visual presentation;
- Engage deeply with a topic they care about;
- Work closely with a faculty member and faculty panel to define, develop, and present their research.

### **Guidelines and Expectations**

#### *General expectations*

Students admitted to the Honors Program are expected to conduct research and prepare a thesis on a topic of their own choosing through the two semesters of their Senior year at Rice. The thesis should be grounded on original library or field research, analysis of archaeological datasets, or a combination thereof. Students are strongly encouraged to undertake field research or original data analysis for their thesis project when possible, but should be aware

that advance preparation and planning is necessary. Students should design a project that relates to the topical, theoretical, and methodological issues of their selected area of emphasis (social-cultural anthropology or anthropological archaeology).

### **Work with faculty supervisor and panel**

Students should identify their supervisor during their Junior year. Beginning no later than the start of their Senior year, students must meet regularly with their faculty supervisor, though the details of the meeting schedule are to be worked out individually with the supervisor. Meeting at least every two weeks is advisable. Students should come prepared to meetings, complete drafts and any other assignments on time, and be sure to understand and respond to the supervisor's feedback. As described below, the student will defend their thesis before a panel of between two to three members of the Rice faculty. Two members of the panel must be members of the Anthropology Department, one of whom will be their faculty supervisor. Students are welcome to select a third committee member from an outside department, should their project warrant interdisciplinary support. Throughout the process, the student should provide updates to their full faculty panel.

Though matters of organization and timing vary from topic to topic, students typically spend the first Senior semester undertaking research, and much of the second writing.

### **Thesis**

Theses typically range from about fifty to sixty typed double-spaced pages with a complete bibliography of works cited; the bibliography pages are not included in the fifty to sixty page length. Citation and formatting should follow the Chicago Manual of Style (Author-Date): <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

For social-cultural anthropology theses: The thesis will derive from each student's original ethnographic research or, if ethnographic research proved unfeasible or undesirable due to the nature of the project, a substantive engagement with the existing theoretical, geographic, and methodological literature on the chosen topic. In each case, theses must have a carefully established and argued thesis and evidence. Both theses based on ethnographic research and those based on library research should demonstrate mastery of the literatures and current debates in anthropology that are relevant to the project. Students wishing to combine their Anthropology Honors thesis with a final project or paper for another major should consult with their supervisors from each major and, if necessary, Directors of Undergraduate Studies to discuss possible options.

For anthropological archaeology theses: The thesis will include a background and literature survey, clearly-articulated research questions, an overview of the data used and the methods employed, and an analysis of the data and conclusions drawn. Theses will commonly include tables and figures as necessary.

## **Presentation and Defense**

At the end of the second semester of their Senior year, students are expected to defend their thesis orally before their faculty supervisor and panel; they may invite anyone else they wish to attend the defense as well. Students will make a 20-minute oral presentation of their research to the faculty panel and assembled students. Presentations should summarize the project in a clearly understandable form and should also include a visual presentation (i.e., a poster or PowerPoint presentation) that enhances and elaborates the oral presentation. Presentations should be delivered in a polished, well-rehearsed, professional manner. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period during which the student will defend the arguments of the thesis.

## **Planning for the Thesis**

### *Securing a Faculty Supervisor and Panel*

During their Junior year, students should begin devising a suitable thesis topic in consultation with the Anthropology Department faculty member who will serve as their supervisor. Students are responsible for finding a supervisor willing to supervise the research and writing of the thesis. Every student must have a thesis supervisor. In every case, the supervisor must be a member of the Department of Anthropology. The supervisor, as well as the second departmental member of the panel and, where warranted, a third non-departmental member, must be secured by the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the second semester of their Junior year.

Students MUST apply for admission to the Honors Program and secure a faculty thesis supervisor by the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the second semester of their Junior year. To apply for admission, students must complete the *Honors Program Admission Form* (attached here) and submit it to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. With this form, students also designate their thesis supervisor and panel.

Once students have submitted their completed Honors Program Admission Form, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will verify their Grade Point Averages. Those students who have maintained adequate overall and departmental GPAs through the first semester of their Junior year will be provisionally admitted to the Honors Program. Such admission may, however, be revoked in the light of poor academic performance during the second Junior semester.

Students admitted to the Program should enroll in ANTH 490 and ANTH 491 during the appropriate semesters. They must register in their faculty supervisors section of each course. They must also enroll in the ANTH 493 in the fall semester of their Senior year, unless graduating in December.

## **Human Subjects Review**

Students who plan to conduct research involving human subjects must complete several

additional steps. First, they must complete the IRB Training Tutorial online at <https://comp.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=422>. CITI and IRB training—which involves an online learning module and certification—should be completed during the spring semester of the junior year. Students who have already passed the IRB training do not need to repeat it. Second, after completing the IRB training, students must complete, in conjunction with their supervisor, an Application for New Protocol Review to be submitted to the Institutional Review Board. Once students have registered in the IRBnet system the form is available at <http://irbnet.blogs.rice.edu> (Training and brief classes on IRBnet are also available at the above address). Because the Institutional Review Board does not meet during summer, Honors Program students are strongly encouraged to complete both of these steps during the spring semester of the Junior year. Those who have not yet done so must complete their training and submit their IRB protocols in time for the first meeting of the IRB, usually the first week of September.

## **Scheduling**

### *Junior Year*

- Contact faculty early in the Spring semester to discuss possible projects and faculty supervisors
- Complete *Honors Program Submission Form* (signed by faculty supervisor) and submit to the Director of Undergraduate Studies by last day of the 10th week of classes in the spring semester of Junior year.
- Register for ANTH 493, Senior Research Preparation, for Fall semester of Senior year.
- Complete CITI and IRB training. You are also encouraged to submit your IRB protocol at the end of your Junior year, if possible.
- Students interested in conducting research during Study Abroad must ensure IRB training completion and protocol approval before leaving the country.

### *Senior Year*

The scheduling of the research for and writing of the thesis cannot be fixed independently of the topic chosen. Students should draw up a precise schedule of deadlines in consultation with their supervisors. They should plan to meet with their supervisors at least once every other week in order to address problems and review progress. The following is a rough agenda, which may be revised at the supervisor's discretion:

Meetings with faculty supervisor (sample schedule):

First semester:

- End of third week: submission of a formal thesis proposal, clarifying the topic chosen and including a preliminary bibliography of relevant sources, discussion of ethnographic sites and/or archaeological data.
- End of seventh week: completion of a full working bibliography.
- Final week of classes: completion of provisional outline of the thesis paper.

Second Semester:

- End of fifth week: completion of research, revisiting outline of the thesis paper based on completed data collection and/or analysis.
- End of eleventh week: submission of first draft.
- Thirteenth week: Submission of final draft.
- Last week of classes or exam period: Presentation and defense in front of panel.
- At least five days before Senior Grades deadline: the completion of any revisions to the thesis which the panel deems necessary, and the submission of a final draft of the thesis to the director.

### **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

Students seeking further information about the Honors Program may consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

**The Honors Program in the Department of Anthropology  
HONORS PROGRAM ADMISSION FORM**

When you have consulted with a faculty member and s/he has agreed to supervise your Honors thesis, complete this form and ask her/him to sign it. **YOU** are responsible for turning in the signed form to the Anthropology Office in 572 Sewall Hall.

**The deadline for turning in the form is 5:00 pm, on the last business day of the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the spring semester of your Junior year.**

If you do not secure a faculty supervisor and panel and turn in this form by the deadline, you will **NOT** be permitted to register for ANTH 490/491 (Directed Honors Research) without petitioning the Departmental Undergraduate Committee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Faculty Panel**

1. Faculty Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Faculty Thesis Panel Member: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Faculty Thesis Panel Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Thesis topic/title: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Faculty supervisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty supervisor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Undergraduate Studies' name: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Undergraduate Studies' signature: : \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_