

HONORS THESIS: Information and Guidelines

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

The honors thesis is a paper of approximately 20-30 pages prepared under the supervision of a departmental faculty member. It may represent work undertaken in connection with SOC 498H/ANT 498H or some other course but must not constitute duplication of any paper submitted in a course for which the student has also received regular credit or honors credit. The honors thesis may be empirical or discursive, applied or basic research, but it must be explicitly grounded in either sociology or anthropology literature.

Work on the honors thesis is usually completed in conjunction with a three credit hour course, SOC498H or ANT 498H (Special Topics-Honors Program) for the writing of the thesis. The student and instructor design a plan of work for the honors thesis. With the approval of the Honors Coordinator, a maximum of an additional three hours credit in special topics coursework may be included in the required twelve hours of honors work.

The honors thesis is usually submitted during the last semester of the senior year and must be submitted to the supervising faculty member and second reader no later than one month prior to the last day of classes for the semester in which the student is graduating. The student should clear the first draft with the supervising faculty before copies are sent to the other reader. In effect, students should be prepared to make revisions. The first draft should be submitted to the supervising faculty six weeks before the end of the semester. The supervising faculty should provide feedback on the first draft within two weeks so that the final copy may be distributed by the one month deadline.

To be accepted as an honors thesis, the paper must have been read and approved by the supervising departmental faculty and by one other reader in the department. The reader will be selected by having the Honors Coordinator, in consultation with the supervising faculty and the student, ask a Sociology/Anthropology faculty member to serve in this capacity. This must be done by the third week of the semester the thesis is to be written. All tenure-track S/A faculty are appropriate readers for an honors thesis (i.e., title of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor). The reader does not have to specialize in the specific area of the thesis (e.g. the reader may specialize in the family; the thesis may be in criminology). In the case of a split decision between the supervising faculty and the reader, an additional reader will be designated by the Honors Coordinator. The reader is expected to evaluate the final copy within two weeks. In the case of a "conditional pass" grade, the student is expected to complete the revisions by the final due date. The final, approved thesis must be submitted to the undergraduate honors coordinator one week before the last day of class for the semester. The final honors thesis will remain on file in the departmental office after it is submitted.

Summary of Honors Thesis Work: Timetable

1. End of second full week of classes: Honors Course/Thesis Plan of Work form completed and signed by student and supervising faculty and submitted to the Honors Coordinator.
2. End of third week of classes: Second reader for the thesis is selected.
3. Six weeks prior to last day of classes First draft of honors thesis submitted to supervising faculty.

4. Four weeks prior to last day of classes: Revised honors thesis submitted to supervising faculty and reader.

5. Three weeks prior to last day of classes: Evaluation of thesis returned to student.

6. One week prior to last day of classes: "Conditional" must be made up (i.e., a "conditional pass" must have the work completed and resubmitted for final review. Final, approved thesis is due to Honors Director.

7. One week prior to last day of classes: completed Honors Course Report due in Undergraduate Records office (334B of the 1911 Building).