

## Honors Program Description (Class of 2021)

### Introduction

The Honors Programs offers qualified undergraduate students majoring in gender, sexuality, and women's studies an opportunity to develop and conduct an independent research project based on their interests (an Honors Thesis). For many students, working on and completing their Honors Theses (typically 35 - 40 pages) serve as important steps towards graduate school, both in terms of preparing them for graduate-level research and helping them to develop a sophisticated writing sample for graduate school applications.

If interested, students are allowed - and encouraged - to develop earlier research projects into Honors Thesis projects.

Given the additional demands of the Honors Program (that include taking an extra elective and two semesters of an Honors seminar, 391H (Fall) and 393H (Spring) in addition to a 35 - 40 page original thesis), the Honors Program can be challenging and is not meant for all GSW majors. The program is explicitly designed for students interested in writing and revising an original thesis under the guidance of an approved faculty advisor.

### Structure

Students will begin working on their Honors thesis during the Fall semester, while taking 391H and will advance to 393H only if their **proposal**, submitted as part of their completion of 391H, is accepted by the Honors Program committee (consisting of the Director and the Associate Academic Director of the SBAI). If the proposal is not accepted, students will continue with their GSW major by taking 393 senior seminar.

Completion of the Honors Thesis does not guarantee conferral of Honors. The final thesis must receive at least A- in order to qualify for honors. The grade will be assigned by two faculty members, the Thesis Advisor and Second Reader. There is no appeals process. Students present their final Honors Thesis projects at the Honors colloquium, open to the wider UR community.

### Proposal (to be completed Fall 2020)

To be accepted, the proposal should include the following elements:

1. **Faculty advisor agreement form** (see below) - due September 30.
2. **Description** of their proposed project that includes:
  - One-page narrative of the project (with a clear question, motive, and a preliminary thesis);
  - At least half a page long description of completed research;
  - At least half a page long description of planned research.

First draft of the description due October 15 for peer-review and feedback.

Final draft due October 26.

3. **Detailed annotated bibliography** that includes primary and secondary sources - due November 20.
4. **Detailed narrative outline** (at least 5 pages) - due December 1.