

Honors Program Overview for the Class of 2021

The History Department offers undergraduate students the opportunity to conduct an extensive research project of their own choosing through the Honors Program. Students may use the program as a capstone, to further explore a topic covered in a previous seminar or as a first step towards graduate school. Students who have completed the program take great pride in this challenging, culminating experience of their undergraduate career.

The Honors Program features a two-semester sequence totaling 10.0 credits during senior year. In their junior year, students will enroll in any HIS 300W-level seminar (4.0 credits) and must earn an A- or better in this course. During senior year, students take HIS 389H (4.0 credits with advisor) in the Fall. They then enroll in HIS 393H (4.0 credits with advisor) and HIS 399H (2.0 credits with Honors director) in the Spring. This is a challenging process and is not meant for all History majors. The program is explicitly designed for students interested in researching and writing original theses, which will be revised over the course of the Fall and Spring of their senior year. It also provides students the opportunity of working closely with a faculty advisor who will help navigate them through the research process. The proposal process for Honors takes place during junior year. Not all proposals will be accepted.

Earning Honors in History is different from earning Latin distinctions. Students may graduate with distinction (3.7 GPA) or highest distinction in History (3.8 and above) without participating in the program. Along the same lines, completion of a senior thesis does not guarantee conferral of Honors. The final thesis must be of at least A- quality in order to secure honors. Two faculty members, the Thesis Advisor and Second Reader, determine the final grade. There is no appeals process.

Timeline

Prior to their senior year, Honors Program students must carefully select a research topic, sign a faculty agreement with their Thesis Advisor, identify viable sources and submit a research proposal. Students planning on studying abroad must keep these requirements in mind. This may require students to plan for senior research during their first semester of junior year. Study abroad, however, need not be an impediment to pursuing the Honors Program as students may conduct preliminary research during this time. Students are strongly encouraged to compete for undergraduate research funding and to conduct as much research as possible in the summer between their junior and senior years. (See timeline below)

Requirements for admission to Honors Program

Completion of two 300W-level history courses

Submission of research proposal by April 1, 2020

~~Signed faculty agreement for Honors research by April 1, 2020.~~ Extended to April 15, 2020.

3.7 GPA in History coursework

For further information contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Pablo Sierra
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Sample Timeline for current juniors S20/F20/S21 sequence

Spring 2020 – Preparation for senior year research

January 2020	info. session for juniors held by DUS, Honors Director or other faculty
February 2020	preparation of research proposal (2-pg. statement, annotated bib., primary sources), meetings with potential thesis advisor
March 15, 2020	deadline for internal UofR research funding (Discover grants, etc.)
April 1, 2020	submission of Honors research proposals and faculty agreement to History Department (evaluated by Undergraduate Studies Committee)
April 2-5, 2020	students informed of decision to accept, conditionally accept or reject Honors Program proposal
April 6, 2020	registration for Fall 2020 courses

Summer 2020 – Students advance research (sources, archives, interviews, etc.)

Fall 2020 - Students enroll in 389H Senior Thesis with their advisor

early September 2020	initial meeting of Honors cohort
early October 2020	first section/chapter draft due
early December 2020	second section/chapter draft due
mid. December 2020	advisor produces progress report, possible off-ramp (HIS 391W credit)

Spring 2021 - Successful students enroll in 393H and 399H to complete Honors Program

early February 2021	third section/chapter draft due
March 1, 2021	complete draft of thesis sent to Advisor
mid-Mar.-Apr 2021	students revise thesis, incorporate Advisor feedback
April 2021	preparation with speaking group, oral presentation techniques, etc.
late April 2021	final submission due to Advisor and Second Reader
early May 2021	Honors Colloquium