

Honors Program in History - Class of 2023 and subsequent cohorts

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 three-semester sequence, totaling 12.0 credits over the course of their junior and senior year. Students enroll in a HIS 300W-level seminar by Fall or Spring semester of their junior year. They must earn no less than an A- in this course to be considered for the Honors program. In Fall or Spring semester of their junior year, students enroll in HIS 299H – UR Research: History and Your Project (2.0 credits) to prepare for independent research and grant applications. Students will prepare and submit their research proposals during the Spring semester of their junior year. If their proposals are accepted, students will enroll in the following courses for their senior year: HIS 389H (4.0 credits with their advisor) in the Fall, 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 they will revise 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 the Spring semester of junior year. The Undergraduate Studies committee will evaluate proposals on the basis of scholarly merit, viability and the student's ability to express ideas clearly. *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 Honors program. Completing the program 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

During junior year, students enroll in HIS 299H (2.0 credits). As part of the course, they must carefully select a research topic, 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.

Requirements for admission to Honors Program

Completion of 300W-level history course with minimum A- grade by Fall or Spring of junior year
Completion of HIS 299H by end of junior year
Submission of research proposal form and signed faculty agreement form by April 1, 2022
Minimum 3.5 GPA in History coursework

Sample Timeline for Class of 2023 and subsequent cohorts

Spring 2022 – Prospective Honors students enroll in HIS 299H for research preparation, course meets first half of semester only (2.0 credits)

Jan-Mar. 2022	preparation of research proposal (2-pg. statement, annotated bib., sources), meetings with potential thesis advisor
March 15, 2022	deadline for internal UofR research funding (Discover Grants, etc.)
April 1, 2022	submission of research proposals and faculty agreement to History Department (evaluated by Undergraduate Studies Committee)
April 2-5, 2022	students informed of research proposal acceptance, conditional acceptance or rejection
late April 2022	registration for Fall 2022 courses

Summer 2022 – Students advance research (sources, archives, interviews, digitization, etc.)

Fall 2022 – Honors students pursue 389H Senior Thesis with their advisor

early September 2022	initial meeting of Honors cohort
mid October 2022	first section/chapter draft due
early December 2022	second section/chapter draft due
mid December 2022	Advisor produces progress report, possible off-ramp (HIST 391W credit)

Spring 2023 –Continuing students enroll in 393H (w. advisor) and 399H (w. Honors Director)

early February 2023	third section/chapter draft due
March 1, 2023	complete draft of thesis sent to Advisor
mid-Mar.-Apr. 2023	students revise thesis, incorporate Advisor feedback
April 2023	preparation with speaking group, oral presentation techniques, etc.
late April 2023	final submission due to Advisor and Second Reader
early May 2023	Honors Colloquium