

Asian Studies Program Honors Program

General

The honors program in Asian Studies gives students an opportunity to do advanced work in Asian Studies and to make an original contribution to the field. The honors program involves a year of intensive writing and research in which students work closely with a faculty affiliate of the Program to write a thesis. Students may take up to six credits of independent work in order to write the thesis.

Students normally begin in the spring of their junior year by selecting an honors advisor in the Asian Studies Program who will help develop an honors proposal.

The Honors Thesis

While honors theses in Asian Studies vary, typical theses are focused on a single scholarly issue. They usually have an introduction and several chapters. The introduction typically does three things: provides an explanation of the issue and discusses why the issue is important, states the original thesis to be defended, and states what the various chapters are about. There is also typically a chapter that considers previous attempts to deal with the issue, and reviews the relevant scholarly literature. Finally, of course, there is a chapter devoted to defending the main position or thesis. Most honors theses are between 60 and 100 pages in length.

The Oral Exam

When the honors thesis is completed, the student defends it at an oral examination conducted by the Honors Examination Committee. The committee will be made up of the advisor (a faculty affiliate of the Asian Studies Program) and two other faculty, one of whom may be from another institution. At the conclusion of the oral examination, the committee may accept the thesis, reject the thesis, or ask that the thesis be further revised and resubmitted.

Eligibility

Students who are declared majors or minors, have a grade point average of at least 3.3, and who have four Asian Studies courses taken or in progress may apply for the honors program in Asian Studies.

Schedule

If any of the dates listed below fall on a weekend, then the deadline will be the following Monday.

May 1: The honors proposal is due (see attached form). The proposals should state the nature of the thesis, and the student's background for pursuing the project. The proposal must be submitted to the department chair and the advisor and be approved by both. Forms are available from the director of the Asian Studies Program. [December graduates should turn in their proposals December 1 of their junior year.]

October 1: A full thesis proposal and an annotated bibliography is due. The bibliography should be based on research done over the summer as well as any research done the previous spring. The names of those students whose projects have been approved by the director and advisor will be forwarded to the Dean of Academic Programs. [For December graduates the due date is March 15.]

December 1: A report on the work completed for the honors thesis is due. The report should review the research that has been completed, update the annotated bibliography, and set out a time table for completion of the honors thesis. In addition, the report should contain a draft of a chapter of the thesis. [For December graduates the due date is September 1.]

January 31: The honors advisor submits the names of students who are approved to continue work on the honors thesis. By this date, the student and advisor should agree upon the members of the student's Honors Examination Committee. [For December graduates the due date is September 15.]

April 1: The completed thesis should be submitted to the members of the student's Honors Examination Committee and a date for the oral examination will be set. [For December graduates the due date is November 1.]

April 20: The Honors Advisor will inform the Dean of Academic Programs whether the student will be graduating with honors. [For December graduates the due date is December 1.]

