

Anthropology Honors Program Guidelines

Updated January 2024

The ANT honors program is designed to equip outstanding, committed, and hard-working students majoring in Anthropology with skills to engage in anthropological research and to develop their analytical, writing and, presentation skills. This program offers undergraduate students an opportunity to demonstrate their scholarly potential by conducting original research and writing a thesis under the one-on-one guidance of a faculty advisor.

Learning objectives:

As a result of participation in this program, students will:

- conduct original research under the guidance of a faculty mentor
- develop research, writing, and presentation skills
- be prepared to continue their studies at the graduate level

Learning outcomes:

With the guidance of a faculty advisor, the student will prepare an original, independent research paper or project (honors thesis). These will typically be between 20-30 pages for theses/projects overseen by an S-wing faculty and between 10-20 pages for theses/projects overseen in the E-wing, but this is extremely variable. More importantly, they should be of sufficient quality and interest to present at an academic conference, and perhaps even be published in some form. Participating students will also be asked to present their research at the Undergraduate Research Conference in Spring Quarter.

Eligibility

To qualify for participation in the Department of Anthropology's honors program, a student must:

- complete 135 units by the end of junior year
- hold a 3.50 GPA in all ANT classes required for the major at the start of the academic year in which they start the honors thesis/project*
- enroll in and complete at least six units of ANT 194H, taken over a minimum of two quarters, under the direct mentorship of a faculty member

*if a student does not have this GPA but still wants to pursue an honors thesis, they should consult with the undergrad advising office about options

Suggested Timeline

Winter/Spring Quarter before senior year - start reaching out to faculty (via office hours preferably) who could be possible faculty mentors for the thesis to ask about availability for the following academic year and overseeing a thesis project.

Summer before senior year - begin drafting an ANT Honors Thesis proposal and have your faculty mentor review it. Note, many faculty have limited availability during the summer while they do fieldwork, so be sure to establish a deadline for the proposal that works for both of you.

Throughout the senior year – It is strongly recommended to meet regularly with your faculty mentor throughout the year. Typically, this will entail meeting weekly, but minimally you should meet at least once/month to keep updated on progress.

First week of fall quarter of senior year - this is when the ANT Honors Thesis proposal is due to Undergrad Advising office. This includes the honors application ([found on website](#)) being signed by your faculty mentor which serves as their approval of overseeing your thesis. You will then receive a CRN # to enroll in ANT 194H units under your faculty mentor's name. **Each quarter, you will need to enroll with a different CRN # for ANT 194H.**

April of senior year - this is when the Undergraduate Research Conference occurs so you should plan to have findings to present at this conference by then.

June of senior year – Submit your final draft of your honors thesis or project to your faculty mentor via email. *If you need beyond the end of spring quarter to complete your final draft, please consult with the ANT Advising Office for options.*

Program Application:

To apply to the program, students must:

- 1) Find a faculty mentor to oversee their ANT 194H units
 - a) Ideally, a student seeking a faculty mentor will want to find someone whose research area and methods are relevant to the type of honors thesis research they want to engage in. The advising office staff can provide guidance to the most appropriate faculty member to advise a student's proposed thesis/project. Students also can speak with faculty members who have taught courses that they found particularly interesting.
 - b) A faculty mentor who accepts a student for ANT 194H (Special Study for Honors Students) will have the responsibility of guiding the student in their research and writing of a senior thesis on an original laboratory, field, or literature research project (e.g., ethnographic interview, primate observation, DNA sequencing, artifact analysis).

2) Students must complete a 2-3-page proposal (400-600 words) and send it to their faculty advisor first for review. Once a faculty advisor has reviewed a student's proposal and approved it, the student must submit the ANT Honor's Application (with their faculty advisor's signature), generally by the start of fall quarter (this deadline will vary slightly each year). Email the advising office for this form.

Frequently Asked Questions

IS THERE ANY WAY FOR ME TO GET A SENSE OF WHAT IS EXPECTED IN AN HONORS THESIS?

We have an archive of previous honors theses that are available upon request by emailing the undergraduate advising office (socantadvisor@ucdavis.edu).

DO HONORS THESIS UNITS COUNT TOWARD THE MAJOR?

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology, 4 units of ANT 194H can count towards major requirements for the Evolutionary, Sociocultural, or General emphasis. Please see the advising office for more information.

For the Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology, ANT 194H will not count towards major requirements but will count towards overall upper division units needed to graduate.

WHAT IF THE PROFESSOR WITH WHOM I WANT TO WORK WITH IS GOING TO BE ON LEAVE FOR PART OF THE YEAR?

That can easily happen, which is why it inquiring about faculty availability early makes sense. While this is not an ideal situation, in some cases, alternative arrangements can be made to include your chosen professor as an informal member of your team. Meanwhile, you will need to find a second faculty member in your field who can sign on to be your official adviser.

Research Funding Options

-PUF Grant- <https://urc.ucdavis.edu/PUF>

- Two cycles per year, one deadline in mid-November and one in mid-February

-ANT Undergrad Research Grant-

<https://anthropology.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/opportunities/undergraduate-research/undergraduate-research-grant>

- Application typically due in early January