

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

HONORS THESIS PROGRAM 2019-20

comm.stanford.edu/undergrad/honors

The Program: The Honors Thesis Program offers qualified students an opportunity to conduct independent communication research and to write an honors thesis reporting their results. The program provides for close contact between students and thesis advisors so that students can receive intensive guidance and assistance throughout their research and writing. The aim is to help students go through the process of conceptualization, study planning, data collection, analysis and writing, which is essential to excellence in scholarship.

Eligibility: Each student should submit an application for the program no later than the last day of classes of spring quarter of the junior year and have a GPA of 3.3 in Communication courses. The Honors Thesis Program is based on the assumption that useful research and writing take time and effort and thus will be ongoing for the three quarters of the senior year. Students should be aware that no faculty member can effectively supervise more than a few theses each year. Normally, the thesis advisor will be a faculty member with whom the student has already taken a course.

Requirements: Students wishing to participate in the Honors Thesis Program must be majoring in Communication and must have completed the core requirements (COMM 1, 106, 108, STATS 60) and received a grade of B+ or better in Communication Research Methods (COMM 106). A thesis advisor may deem other courses as necessary.

Writing Consultation Services: The Hume Center for Writing and Speaking provides many resources to help you with Honors projects. Honors Thesis Boot Camps are offered during the summer and academic year. Students can also seek individual consultation with them about clarifying argument and thesis, framing research, improving transitions, providing revising strategies and other writing issues. Their writing consultants also work with students on scheduling and planning, how to stay motivated, overcoming writer's block, outlining and organizing sections of a thesis, assessing a writing schedule for the honors thesis.

Funding: Academic Advising Student Grants support rigorous, independent projects in all disciplines. For detailed information, go to <https://undergrad.stanford.edu/opportunities/research/get-funded/explore-uar-student-grants>. You can also contact Brian Thomas, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Research Opportunities, during the Autumn Quarter of your junior year for more information regarding how to secure funding for your Honors Thesis. He can be reached at bthomas@stanford.edu or (650) 723-0051. Two important sources of funding that you may want to apply for are:

Major Grants

- Major Grants provide a 10-week stipend of \$7,500 in support of full-time immersive summer project commitments. See [Constructing a Budget](#) for Undergraduate Research's policies and guidelines for using these funds.
- Most Major Grants are awarded to students beginning an honors thesis, a senior project in the arts, or senior synthesis project between their junior and senior years.
- The 2019-2020 application deadline is **March 9, 2020 at 11:59pm**.

Small Grants

- Small grants of up to \$1,500 support smaller independent projects and can also be used to enable particular phases of larger-scale effort. Applications deadlines are found throughout the year, making the Small Grant especially flexible.

Honors Thesis Credit: Students admitted to the program will earn five units of honors thesis credit for a total of three quarters. Students are expected to make steady progress on their honors thesis throughout the year. An 'N' grade must be entered in Axxess by the thesis advisor at the end of each of the first two quarters, indicating that this is continuing work and that the final grade (posted in spring) will be a letter grade. The honors work may be used to fulfill Communication elective credit. Honors in Communication cannot be awarded retroactively. A student failing to fulfill all honors requirements may still receive independent study credit for work completed which can be applied toward fulfilling major elective requirements. Failure to submit a satisfactory draft of the thesis during fall quarter will result in the student being dropped from the program.

Submitting Your Honors Thesis: A final copy of the paper must be submitted to the thesis advisor for review and grading and an electronic copy uploaded to the Stanford Digital Repository by the end of the eighth week of Spring Quarter of the student's senior year.

Graduation with Honors: The designation *graduation with honors* is awarded by the Department of Communication to those graduating seniors who, in addition to having completed all requirements for the Communication major, also achieve the following:

1. Successfully complete an Honors Thesis (B+ or better)
2. Maintain a distinguished grade average in all Communication course work
3. Are recommended by the Communication faculty

This distinction will be noted on the student's diploma and during the department graduation ceremonies.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
HONORS THESIS PROGRAM
APPLICATION 2019-20**

(submit no later than the last day of classes of spring of junior year)

Name _____

Stanford ID _____ **Email address** _____

Overall GPA _____ **Major GPA** _____

Grade for Core Courses:

COMM 1 _____ COMM 108 _____

COMM 106 _____ STATS 60 _____
(min B+)

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Thesis Advisor Name _____

Thesis Advisor Signature _____ **Date** _____

Proposal (Please present to thesis advisor.)
