

AFRICANA STUDIES HONORS PROGRAM

AFRS Honors Procedures: From Honors Admission to Honors Graduation



1. Interested student will first meet with the department chair or AFRS honors coordinator to determine his/her eligibility for the Honors in Africana Studies. This meeting must take place not later than the second semester of the junior year.
2. If the student is eligible (see [AFRS Honors Admission](#) above), he/she will fill out the [AFRS Honors Application Form](#) and return this to the honors coordinator. The form can be downloaded from AFRS website [africana.uncc.edu] or obtained from the AFRS main office.
3. Once admitted, the student will determine, in consultation with the honors coordinator, which of these two preparatory honors courses to take in the first semester of the senior year.
 - (a). Research Methods Honors (AFRS 3290-H), or
 - (b). African Diaspora Theory Honors (AFRS 4010-H)
4. Ideally, the preparatory honors-designated course should be taken in the first semester of the student's senior year, and the Senior Honors Project/Thesis in the second semester. Students are not permitted to register for the Senior Honors Project/Thesis before taking one of the two preparatory honors courses.
5. Student will nominate an honors faculty advisor during the semester s/he enrolls in the AFRS honors program. The selection of honors faculty advisor will be based on the student's topic of interest and faculty expertise; must be done in consultation with the AFRS honors coordinator; and be formally approved by the department chair. The faculty advisor will normally be a full-time instructor in the Africana Studies Department.
6. Student must submit a project topic and a two-page project/thesis idea to the honors advisor, not later than the first week of the semester he/she is taking AFRS 3290-H or AFRS 4010-H. The preliminary project/thesis idea must include what the student seeks to accomplish through library or primary research; laboratory or fieldwork research; or community engagement/applied scholarship.
7. The honors faculty advisor will guide the student until the project/thesis idea is approved in consultation with the instructor of AFRS 3290-H or AFRS 4010-H in which the student is enrolled. The proposed project will serve as the basis of the background research completed by the student under the guidance of the instructor of record, and in consultation with the honors advisor. The background research will account for 20-40% of the total grade in the preparatory course. The instructor of record will determine the grade of the preparatory work.
8. The final product of the background research/inquiry must include literature review, research design, and oral presentation. The proposal must be organized under the following headings:

- (a). A layman's summary (abstract)
- (b). A statement of the thesis's proposed argument and/or problem-solving issue.
- (c). A discussion of the literature review.
- (d). Research design: methods and approaches.
- (e). The project's significance or relevance (for example, what contribution will it make to scholarly literature, general knowledge, or policy issues?).

9. The project proposal and preparatory/background research must be reviewed and approved at the departmental level by the honors committee comprising of the project advisor, honors coordinator, and the AFRS 3290-H or AFRS 4010-H instructor (if the same faculty is serving in two of these roles, the Department Chair or his/her appointee will join the committee).

10. The honors student must earn an A in the preparatory/background research and a final grade of A or B in the overall course; and must maintain the minimum GPA required for honors students in order to be eligible to enroll for Senior Honors Project/Thesis (AFRS 4790) within which the honors project/thesis will be completed.

11. The proposal approved by the committee, layperson summary, and page 1 of the Application for Admission to Candidacy form bearing the signature of the three committee members must be filed in the student's record and sent to the Honors College by the honors coordinator not later than the reading day of the semester, prior to the final course. Visit <http://honorscollege.uncc.edu/students/current-students/application-candidacy> for the guidelines on how to prepare and send these documents.

12. The research, analysis, writing, and presentation of the project/thesis will be completed in the Senior Honors Project/Thesis (AFRS 4790) under the supervision of the honors faculty advisor who will serve as the instructor of record. The final product may be in form of a digital (e.g., web-based), textual (a minimum of 20-page paper, double-spaced), database development, or creative work. The product must show evidence that the honors project is driven by the quest to solve an applied problem, or develop a better understanding of a theoretical or practical issue. It must include research/inquiry, written product, and oral presentation.

13. The honors student will notify the other two members of the student's honors committee, and the honors coordinator that s/he is ready to orally present and defend the project/thesis. If the product is text-based, a copy of the final paper will at this time be made available to the project committee. However, if the product is digital-based, database development, or creative work, both the original work and a 5-page summary statement will be made available to the project committee.

14. The honors project committee members and the student will agree on a date and time for the student to make the presentation; and the honors coordinator will announce the date to AFRS faculty and students as well as the Honors College. The title and abstract of the project/thesis will accompany the announcement. The presentation must take place not less than a week after the formal announcement; and no later than two weeks before the end of classes.

15. The honors project defense is open to all faculty and students in the Africana Studies Department and the Honors College. The presentation shall proceed as follow:

- (a). The project advisor will chair and coordinate the defense.

(b). The honors student will make a 20-25 minute oral presentation about the highlights of the project: goals, methods, processes, significance or relevance, findings, and (if relevant) policy recommendations.

(c). This is followed by 25-30 minutes of Q&A, starting with the project/thesis committee members. Afterwards, any attendee may ask questions in the order recognized by the project advisor.

(d). Both the presentation and Q&A will not last more than an hour after which the student and audience will exit the room so that the project committee can deliberate in private.

16. Upon the completion of the deliberation, the student's honors committee will invite the student back into the room to deliver their verdict, discuss revisions with the student, and/or set the deadline for the revisions to be completed. It is after the final project is submitted that the committee members will decide on the grade for the honors project. To qualify for graduation with honors recognition, a student must receive the grade of "A" for the Honors thesis/project research; s/he must also meet the required overall GPA and departmental GPA.

17. Once the honors project/thesis committee members have determined that the student meets all the honors requirements, they will complete page 2 of the Application for Admission to Candidacy form, and send this form and the project/thesis to the Honors College. The guidelines for preparing the form and related documents can be found at <http://honorscollege.uncc.edu/students/current-students/application-candidacy>.

18. Students and faculty must adhere to the Honors College deadlines. The dates for these deadlines can be found at <http://honorscollege.uncc.edu/students/current-students/important-deadlines>.