

Departmental Honors/Distinction in the Major

This is an inventory of Departmental Honors/Distinction in the Major opportunities, taken from the UCSB catalog July 2016. Listings are alphabetical within the divisions. Three L&S departments are not included: EALCS for which no information could be found, and PSTAT and Global Studies, which apparently do not have departmental honors.

HFA Departments

Art:

Honors Program

An important component of our undergraduate program, the departmental honors program is a one-year course of study designed to bring a select group of seniors to a level of professional practice. Students apply by portfolio in the spring of their junior year, and must have at least a B overall grade-point average. Selection is by faculty consensus after a review of portfolio materials (image, video, audio, and text files that are submitted online), with the top 9-12 students chosen for their extant production, as well as potential for development as professional artists. Selected students participate in a rigorous, focused curriculum consisting of seminar, critique, and independent study work. They receive advanced course reading, and are responsible for sharing their own research through additional readings for the group. They are expected, with the guidance of the Honors Advisor and other faculty, to assume a heightened level of initiative for their own education as well as their role as artists within culture. When possible, visiting artists are invited to speak and the Honors students are granted parallel rights and responsibilities in line with the graduate students, such as access to lab facilities as well as spring exhibition of their senior projects.

Classics:

Undergraduate Honors

The Department of Classics at UCSB allows and encourages qualified students to pursue undergraduate honors in classics. Students admitted to the honors program in classics will write an honors thesis during their senior year, supervised by a member of the faculty. Successful completion of the program will be recognized by the award of Distinction in the Major at graduation. An honors thesis for distinction in classics is a substantial piece of critical writing that advances a sustained argument and that shows the student's ability to conduct research with primary and secondary sources. A thesis is usually at least 25 pages in length (excluding appendices and bibliography). Candidates for the honors program in

classics should petition the department chair at the end of their junior year; candidates must have been in residence at UCSB for one year (three quarters) as classics majors by time of graduation, must have maintained a grade-point average of 3.6 in the major, and must obtain the consent of two faculty members, one to serve as advisor and one as a second reader. In the first quarter of their senior year, honors students will work with faculty members to develop a suitable topic; in each of the remaining quarters, they will enroll in Classics 195A-B, Senior Honors Thesis in Classics, to research and write the honors thesis in consultation with the thesis advisor and the second reader.

Comparative Literature:

Senior Honors Program in Comparative Literature

To qualify for the program, students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 (overall and in the major) and have completed at least two quarters of their junior year at UCSB.

To earn departmental senior honors, the student will work with a professor of his/her choice for two quarters to complete a senior honors thesis (an extended research project, the minimum length is 30 pages), while enrolled in Comparative Literature 199 (Independent Studies) or Comparative Literature 196H (Senior Honors Independent Research; *not currently listed in the catalog*). No more than 4 units of 199 or 196H credit may be applied to the major requirements. Students who complete departmental honors will receive the notation of "Distinction in the Major" on both official transcripts and their diploma.

English:

Honors Program. The Honors Program in English provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research.

Students should apply to the program in the Winter of their junior year. Majors who have completed the sophomore year with a minimum GPA of 3.5 (overall and in the major) may apply for admission to the Honors Program. The English Honors Program entails two related courses (4 credits each), taken in two consecutive quarters from junior to senior year: the English Honors Seminar (198H), taken in the spring of the junior year; and the Senior Thesis (196), an independent study taken in the fall of the senior year during which the senior thesis is written. Successful completion of the honors program merits the award of Distinction in the Major at graduation.

Film and Media Studies:

Graduation with Distinction in Film and Media Studies (The Senior Honors Program)

The honors program in film and media studies provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced film research or creative work. Through successful completion of the honors program, a student will achieve the degree award of Distinction in the Major.

Majors who have completed two quarters of the junior year with a minimum grade-point average of 3.30 will be eligible to apply for admission to the honors program. The application includes: (1) a 500-word prospectus, outlining the nature and scope of the project and the plan for carrying it out; (2) An endorsement by the faculty member who will supervise and evaluate the project. Applications are due no later than the tenth week of classes for admission to the program in the following quarter.

The project is a research or critical essay of not fewer than 40 pages or a completed short film, or completed feature-length screenplay, accompanied by a critical self-assessment of the project. The program is comprised of two related courses (4 units each) to be taken in two quarters of the senior year. These must be taken consecutively. The first course is Independent Studies (Film Studies 199), which must be taken for a letter grade and will not count as a film and media studies elective. During the quarter the student, guided by the sponsoring faculty member, completes the required research and submits for formal evaluation a draft of the essay or creative work. The second course is a senior honors seminar (Film Studies 196) during which the student completes the honors project.

French and Italian:

Awards and Honors

Pi Delta Phi is a nationwide French honor society. Juniors and seniors with a 3.5 GPA in French and a 3.5 grade-point average overall will be invited to join, as will qualifying graduate students. In addition, qualifying French and Italian Studies majors of senior standing are invited to participate in the Senior Honors Program. This entails writing a 20-page senior honors thesis as an independent study project (up to 4 units course credit). Those who successfully complete this project will graduate with departmental honors; their diplomas and transcripts will read "Distinction in the Major."

German and Slavic:

Senior Honors Program in German-Requirements

Students may request nomination for the senior honors program by filing an application form, or they may be nominated by faculty. Qualifying requirements include an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0, with 3.5 in the German major, and at least 105 units completed, including at least two upper-division courses in German.

To earn departmental senior honors, students will work with a professor of their choice for two quarters to complete a senior thesis, while receiving course credit for German 197 (Senior Honors Project). No more than 4 units of 197 credits may be applied to the major requirements. Students who complete departmental honors will receive the notation of "Distinction in the Major" on both official transcripts and their diploma.

History:

Graduation with Distinction in History (The Undergraduate Honors Program)

The Department of History at UCSB is committed to excellence in undergraduate education. In addition to the lower-division survey courses in world, American, and European history, the department offers equivalent 5-unit honors courses, History 2AH-BH-CH, History 4AH-BH-CH and History 17AH-BH-CH, for students interested in undertaking additional reading and writing assignments.

In their junior year, students who have maintained a grade-point average in the major of at least 3.5 and have completed at least 4UD courses by the end of Spring quarter (two of which must be completed by the end of Winter quarter) will be invited to join the department's Senior Honors Seminar, History 194AH-BH, in which students pursue research on a topic of considerable depth and complexity. Students who have successfully completed a research seminar (pro-seminar or a Directed Reading and Research) will be given priority for this course.

Students admitted into the program will enroll in History 194AH-BH for the two quarters of their senior year. History 194AH-BH may be used to satisfy the pro-seminar requirement for majors. No more than 4 units earned in this seminar may be applied to the 40 upper-division units required of all majors. In the fall quarter, honors candidates will read, write papers, and build a working bibliography for their thesis. The remaining quarter of the seminar will be devoted to independent research, conducted in consultation with the thesis advisor. At the end of the seminar, students will submit three copies of the thesis to the department. Students who have completed the honors sequence are eligible for graduation with Distinction in the Major.

History of Art and Architecture:

Honors Program

The departmental honors program is designed for students interested in advanced research in art history. Students must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0, 12 upper-division units in the major, and a major grade-point average of at least 3.5. They must obtain the approval of the department chair as

well as a faculty member who will agree to supervise their honors research project.

Honors students must complete an honors thesis, the product of a two to three-term research project supervised by a member of the faculty. The project will involve work begun in either an undergraduate seminar or upper-division History of Art and Architecture course which will be completed during one to two independent study courses (ARTH199). Students participating in the honors program are also required to take a second seminar course as part of their studies. Alternative options must be approved by the department chair. After projects are completed and submitted, they are evaluated by a committee consisting of the student's faculty supervisor and at least one other departmental faculty member, usually a specialist in a neighboring field. Among the criteria used in evaluating honors theses are scholarly presentation, originality, and quality of research. Students who successfully complete the honors program will receive Distinction in the Major at the time of graduation.

Latin American Iberian Studies:

Honors Program

Seniors who have maintained a 3.6 grade-point average in courses in the major are eligible for the honors program. With approval of the director, students will select an advisor who will direct the project. In two quarters, the student will pursue research and writing on a topic of importance and complexity, resulting in an honors thesis.

Linguistics:

Honors Program in Linguistics

Majors with a minimum 3.5 grade-point average in linguistics courses are eligible to join the honors program during their senior year. The honors program consists of an independent research project carried out under the supervision of a faculty member, earning 6 units of Linguistics 195 over two or three quarters. The goal of the project is to write an original research paper, on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the supervising faculty member. Students successfully completing the program will be eligible for graduation with Distinction in the Major.

Music:

Undergraduate Honors Program

Honors Program in Music (Distinction in the Major)

The senior honors program in the Department of Music encourages seniors to excel in music and to undertake projects beyond the normal requirements, and provides a means of recognizing outstanding achievement. Only music majors (B.M. or B.A.) with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 at the end of Junior year or during Senior year at the time of applying for selection and who are recommended by a faculty member may be selected for the departmental honors program in Music. "Distinction In The Major" will be awarded on the transcript if a final cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 is maintained and both a grade of at least A- in the Senior Honors Project and the Senior B.A. Project or Senior B.M. Recital is achieved.

Philosophy:

Senior Honors Program

Students who meet either of the following requirements may apply to join the Philosophy Department honors program:

- Membership in the Letters and Science Honors Program.
- Completion of at least 12 units of philosophy at UCSB, a philosophy grade point average of 3.5 or better, and an overall grade-point average of 3.3 or better.

Students are urged to apply as early as possible so that a meaningful honors curriculum can be developed at an early stage of their work in the major. Students in the honors program are expected to meet quarterly with the undergraduate advisor to discuss their progress and to plan their subsequent coursework in philosophy; in order to remain in the honors program, students are normally expected to maintain a 3.5 GPA in philosophy.

In order to graduate with distinction in philosophy, the following requirements must be met:

1. Be a member in good standing in the Philosophy Department honors program for at least the last three quarters prior to graduation.
2. Completion of at least two upper-division philosophy honors courses to be contracted by petition between the honors student and the instructor.
3. Completion of a senior thesis that is judged to be of honors quality by the thesis supervisor.

Religious Studies:

Undergraduate Honors

The Department of Religious Studies offers honors sections in some of the lower division religious studies courses. Upper division College Honors Program students may design their own contract courses and independent studies with religious studies faculty. Candidates for the religious studies honors program must be in residence at UCSB for at least one year (three quarters) as religious studies majors, have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5, and a grade-point average of at least 3.75 in religious studies courses. During their senior year, these honor students work closely with department faculty to prepare an honors thesis (RGST 195). Honors program students receive the award of Distinction in the Major upon graduation.

Spanish and Portuguese:

Senior Honors Program in Spanish or Portuguese

Qualified seniors will be invited to participate in an honors program, designed to allow them to pursue independent research on a topic of particular interest to them. Requirements for admission to the program include 105 units of course credits, completion of a minimum of 30 upper-division units in the major, minimum overall grade-point average of 3.0, and a grade-point average of 3.5 or better in the major. Honors graduates will be identified each year at the head of the graduation list in Spanish or Portuguese and will be designated on university records and diplomas with the legend Distinction in the Major.

Theater Dance:

Senior Honors Program

Students who maintain a 3.5 grade point average both in the major and overall are invited by the Chair to submit Senior Honors Project proposals for an undergraduate thesis project to be completed during the senior year, supervised by a member of the faculty. The thesis must represent a significant advanced undertaking in an area of either academic research or creative endeavor. If selected, the student will receive 4 to 8 units of academic credit in the Theater or Dance 193H/HA-HB-HC series. The projects are evaluated by the faculty advisor and additional members of the faculty. Successful completion of the thesis is recognized by the award of Distinction in the Major at graduation.

MLPS Departments

Chemistry and Biochemistry:

Departmental Honors Program

Students who have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or above in their chemistry courses and submit a written report of their original research carried out under the guidance of a faculty member (through completion of chemistry 192) and approved by one additional member of the faculty shall be designated as having achieved a Distinction in the Major.

Earth Science:

Senior Honors Program

Senior standing students with outstanding academic records in geological sciences are encouraged to participate in the senior honors program. The honors program centers on an independent research project, which must represent a significant advanced undertaking in an area of academic or applied research. It must be approved by the department chair and by a faculty member who serves as the project supervisor. Program requirements include a 3.2 grade-point average in the major and overall, maintenance of the 3.2 grade-point average through the duration of the project, and completion of the senior research thesis course series, Geology 196HA-B-C. Distinction in the Major will be awarded at graduation to students whose projects are evaluated as acceptable.

Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology:

Senior Honors Program

Students with outstanding academic records in biological sciences are encouraged to apply for the senior honors program early in the fall quarter of the senior year. The honors program centers on an independent research project carried out under the guidance of an EEMB faculty member, and the preparation of a written report or thesis.

Geography:

Distinction in the Major

Students who maintain a 3.5 overall grade-point average and a 3.6 grade-point average in the major are welcome to pursue Distinction in the Major. In addition to maintaining the GPA, by the time of graduation, students must have completed 8 units of individual study (Geography 198, 199, 199RA), graduate-level

courses, or a combination of the two. Students must obtain permission from a faculty member and the department chair to take part in these courses.

Mathematics:

Honors Program in Mathematics

To enter the honors program in mathematics, a student must have completed 120 units of coursework with an overall grade-point average of at least 3.5 and at least 24 upper-division mathematics and statistics units with a grade-point average of at least 3.5 (excluding Mathematics 100A-B, 193, 195A-B, and PSTAT 133A-B-C and 193). To complete the honors program, the student must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.5 in all upper-division and graduate mathematics and statistics courses (excluding Mathematics 100A-B, 193, 195A-B, and PSTAT 133A-B-C and 193) and as well as complete one of the following: (a) a senior thesis, Math 197A-B; (b) a two-quarter graduate sequence; or (c) together with an advisor, submit a Distinction in the Major proposal for an interdisciplinary program of three mathematically oriented courses outside the math department to the undergraduate committee for its approval.

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology:

Senior Honors Program

Students with outstanding academic records in biological sciences are encouraged to apply for the senior honors program early in the fall quarter of the senior year. The honors program centers on an independent research project carried out in one of the departmental research groups (MCDB 199)

Physics:

Physics Honors

The department provides special opportunities for highly motivated and successful students at both the lower- and upper-division levels, primarily through active involvement in the department's research program. Outstanding sophomores are encouraged to take the Honors Laboratory sequence, Physics 13AH, 13BH, and 13CH, that is designed to aid students in making the transition from the classroom to the modern research laboratory. Many students spend the summers following their sophomore and junior years actively engaged in research, either on campus or at another institution. During the senior year, the opportunity to pursue a bachelor's honors thesis is available to students who maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or better, in physics.

Bachelor's Honors Thesis

Students who wish to pursue a bachelor's honors thesis must submit a signed honors thesis proposal form to the undergraduate faculty advisor for approval three quarters before the thesis is submitted. It is recommended that students discuss plans to pursue an honors thesis with their faculty advisor even earlier (e.g. before the beginning of their junior year). Completion of an honors thesis involves developing a research project under the supervision of a faculty member, presenting a public seminar describing the work, and submitting a formal written thesis to the faculty member and the undergraduate advisory committee for grading and approval. Honors thesis work is credited through one of the following courses: Physics 142L, 143L, 144L, 145L, and 199.

Psychology and Brain Science:

Undergraduate Honors Program

The Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences has an honors program to augment the existing program in the College of Letters and Science. Enrollment in the psychology honors program is by application to the department and is based upon academic achievement.

Students who are selected to participate will earn a wide variety of unique academic privileges. In addition to special honors seminar courses, honors students will be given extended library privileges, and increased priority for class registration.

The departmental program provides qualified students an opportunity for an in-depth and intellectually challenging study of psychology. The psychology honors classes, for example, will be restricted in size and will provide a level of discussion and participation not possible in traditional lecture classes. To help prepare for graduate training, honors students will conduct independent research under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The results of this research will form the basis of the honors thesis, which each student will be required to submit before the end of the senior year.

Social Science Departments

Anthropology:

Senior Honors Program

The senior honors program is designed to facilitate independent research on topics chosen by the student and pursued in particular depth. Minimum qualifications are junior standing (completion of at least 105 units), completion of at least 20 upper-division units in anthropology and a grade-point average of at least 3.4.

Students must enroll in ANTH 195A during Spring Quarter of their Senior Year. Each candidate for honors then enrolls in Anthropology 195 B & C taken in consecutive quarters, under the instruction of a thesis advisor chosen by the student. In 195A, the student will formulate a research problem that they will pursue for the duration of the program and begin to conduct background research that will frame their research project. In 195B, the student will concentrate on reading and gathering material for the thesis. Lastly in 195C, the student will write the thesis. The senior honors thesis will be retained permanently in the department office for faculty and students to read.

Anthropology students who complete the honors program, maintain grades of B or better in Anthropology 195A-B, and graduate with a minimum 3.4 grade-point average in the major will be awarded Distinction in the Major on university records and on the diploma.

Asian American Studies:

Senior Honors Program

The Department of Asian American Studies Honors Program is designed for seniors who wish to receive Distinction in the Major at the time of graduation. Majors who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and major GPA of 3.5 may apply during spring quarter of their junior year for the program beginning the next fall. The Honors Program is comprised of two required courses and one optional independent study course, facilitating the research and writing of an honors thesis. The required courses are: Asian American Studies 175 - Theory and Method in Asian American Studies, offered in Fall quarter; Asian American Studies 195H - Senior Honors Project, offered in Winter quarter. Students who need additional time to complete the honors project may also enroll in Asian American Studies 199 - Independent Studies, in Spring quarter. Students have the option to present

their research in the departmental spring quarter colloquium and/or the University-wide Undergraduate Research Colloquium.

The format for the thesis may be, 1) scholarly work, 2) expressive art, or 3) community studies fieldwork in conjunction with an internship. During the senior year, each student's work will be evaluated by the Honors Program Director and an Asian American Studies faculty advisor. Honors Program graduates will receive the award of Distinction in the Major upon graduation.

Black Studies:

Distinction in the Major

195A-B-C Honors Thesis Seminar in Black Studies:

Earning Distinction in the Major

Distinction in the Major is awarded to students who successfully complete a project or thesis with distinction as part of a departmental senior honors program.

Prerequisites: senior standing and consent of department. Must have a 3.3 university grade-point average; 3.5 departmental grade-point average.

The Honors Thesis Seminar in Black Studies is a three-quarter in-progress sequence course with grades for all three quarters issued upon completion of the final quarter. Each student, under the direction of the department chair, will identify a research topic and map out a research project with the appropriate faculty member(s). Research will begin in fall and continue more intensely during winter. Research papers will be completed in spring with a formal presentation before an audience of faculty, graduate and undergraduate students in Black studies. Students will earn a total of 12 units after successful completion of the Honors Thesis Program in Black Studies. Students who participate in the Senior Honors Thesis are permitted to use BL ST 195A in place of BL ST 190. The units earned from BL ST 195B and BL ST 195C are then applied as upper division elective units towards the major.

Chicana/o Studies:

Senior Honors Program

The Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies commonly offers honors sections in lower-division survey courses and selected upper-division courses. Upper-division College Honors Program students may also design their own contract courses and independent studies courses with Chicana and Chicano Studies faculty. In addition, the Chicana and Chicano Studies Department offers a departmental honors program. Candidates for departmental honors must be in residence at UCSB for at least one year (three quarters) as Chicana and Chicano

Studies majors, have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0, and a minimum 3.5 GPA in the major; special circumstances will be considered for those who fall short of the GPA requirement. During their senior year, students work closely with department faculty to prepare an honors thesis, and enroll in Chicana/o Studies 197HA-HB-HC, which is designed to facilitate research and writing of the thesis. Honors program graduates receive the award of distinction in their major upon graduation.

Communication:

Senior Honors Program

Qualified majors will be sent an invitation letter to participate in the department's senior honors program (Communication 180, 181A-B) during spring quarter of their junior year. Students must have achieved junior standing with a minimum overall and major grade-point average of 3.5 at time of application. Applicants must complete 12 upper-division major units by the end of their junior year, in order to be admitted into the program. Eligibility requirements are subject to change. All interested transfer students should contact the undergraduate advisor early in their first quarter. Students admitted into the program enroll in a thesis preparation seminar in the fall of their senior year, and then work directly with a faculty mentor throughout the senior year to complete an in-depth project culminating in a senior thesis. Students successfully completing the program will graduate with Distinction in the Major.

Economics:

Senior Honors Program

The Senior Honors Program in the Department of Economics consists of Economics 196A-B. This two-quarter seminar sequence allows a small group of students to work closely with a faculty member, and to do independent research in economics with a culminating project at the end of the second quarter. Students interested in earning the Distinction in the Major will also be required to complete Econ 140B.

Access to the 196 series requires the completion of Economics 10A, 100B, 101, and 140A with a 3.50 average GPA, and an overall grade-point average of at least 3.50. In addition, students in the honors program will be granted access to any graduate level course for which they meet the prerequisite, and will be encouraged to take graduate level courses in place of undergraduate courses.

*Graduating with Distinction in the Major requires a minimum 3.50 average GPA in Econ 140B and 196A-B.

Feminist Studies:

Honors Program

The Honors Program in Feminist Studies provides the opportunity for qualified undergraduates to undertake advanced research and work individually with a Feminist Studies faculty mentor. To apply to the program, students must have a grade-point of 3.5 in the Feminist Studies major (3.0 overall) and have completed at least two quarters of the junior year. Candidates apply to the Honors Program by submitting to the undergraduate advisor an application form, a proposal for an undergraduate thesis project, and a letter of recommendation from a Feminist Studies faculty member. Interested students should make contact with the undergraduate advisor during the spring prior to their proposed enrollment. The deadline to submit application materials is September 12, 2013.

The Honors Program requires completion of a substantial research project and the sequence of departmental honors courses. In the fall students participate in the Honors Seminar (Feminist Studies 195HA), followed by independent study with the faculty mentor in the winter and spring quarters (Feminist Studies 195HB and 195HC). The Program culminates in a presentation of research at a symposium in the spring. Honors projects are due by the last day of final examinations. Successful completion of the research project carries the designation of "Distinction in the Major" at graduation if a student's project is accepted by the faculty mentor and the student maintains a GPA of 3.5 in the Feminist Studies Honors courses and major.

Political Science:

Honors Thesis Program

In the winter quarter of their junior year, students with outstanding academic records are eligible for the department's honors thesis program. Those accepted begin their work in the following quarter in a specially designed seminar. In their senior year, they take additional seminar work and write a thesis. Honors graduates will be identified separately each year at the head of the graduation list for political science, and will be eligible for graduation with Distinction in the Major.

Sociology:

Honors Program in Sociology

As part of our participation in the College of Letters and Science Honors Program, the department offers an introductory-level sociology honors class (Sociology 1H), which is taught by the course professor, thus providing students with a unique opportunity for small group interaction with the instructor. In addition, eligible undergraduates may, with consent of the instructor, elect to fulfill an

honors contract for any course. Eligible upper-division honors students may also participate in graduate courses numbered 200-299 by petition.

In addition to the general honors program, the Department of Sociology offers a two-quarter honors research practicum (196H-HR). Students enrolled in this seminar complete an original research project on a topic of their choice. To be eligible for the honors practicum in sociology, students must have completed Sociology 1 and a statistics course, must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade-point average with a 3.5 grade-point average in upper-division sociology courses. In addition, it is strongly recommended that students interested in the honors research practicum acquire competency in the methodological area related to their specific research topic.

All qualified students are invited to apply at the Department of Sociology office before the end of the spring quarter prior to the year of requested admission to the practicum series. All students must submit a writing sample from a social science course, excluding take-home examinations. All final decisions for admission to the honors program will be made by the program coordinator and will be based on the writing sample, standing in the major, and cumulative grade-point average.

Graduation with Distinction

To be eligible to graduate with Distinction in the Major, honors students must complete, with a grade of B or better, a minimum one graduate seminar in sociology and the two quarter honors research practicum which includes the presentation of an honors thesis. Students must also maintain a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average and a 3.5 grade-point average in upper-division sociology courses.