

RC GRADUATION HONORS PROCEDURES

The Residential College encourages RC students who are pursuing RC concentrations and who have excellent overall academic records to apply for Graduation Honors in their chosen concentrations. Concentration programs outside the Residential College each have their own criteria for admitting students to the pursuit of an honors degree and for the awarding of honors. The basic criteria for graduating with honors in any of the six RC concentration programs is given below. Please note: the procedures for undertaking an honors thesis in the Creative Writing concentration differ from the procedures for undertaking an honors thesis in the other RC concentrations (see item 7).

Admission to Honors, and Continuation in Honors, in an RC Concentration:

An RC student desiring to graduate with honors must meet with the head of the relevant RC concentration before the beginning of his/her senior year to determine whether the student is eligible for honors in the concentration.

A student who is eligible for honors must have an excellent overall academic record. This means a record showing a willingness to pursue intellectual challenge, plus a GPA of at least 3.33 overall in A-E letter graded courses completed up to that time, and an equivalent level of achievement in courses graded by evaluation.

A student deemed eligible to attempt honors must complete the following process:

1. By the beginning of the first term of the student's senior year the student must form an HONORS ADVISING COMMITTEE consisting of a principal honors advisor and one other faculty member. At least one of the advising committee members must be a member of the faculty of the Residential College.
2. The student must prepare a WRITTEN PROPOSAL for the honors thesis project by the end of the second week of the first term of the student's senior year. A meeting with the honors advising committee must then be scheduled for a date prior to the end of the drop/add period, for the purpose of discussing the proposal and determining its feasibility.
3. If the honors project is indeed deemed feasible, the student will ordinarily enroll (under the section number of the principal and/or RC member of the advising committee) in RC Core 489, HONORS INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, for 1-4 credits. The number of credits will be determined by the principal honors advisor in consultation with the student.

Honors certifies excellent intellectual and/or creative achievement and originality of thought in the honors thesis.

High Honors recognizes an unusually high level of achievement and is awarded only when the honors thesis is of outstanding quality and special originality.

Highest Honors is a rare award, given from time to time, for a truly brilliant honors thesis.

If the quality of the course work, honors thesis, and any other program-specific requirements justify the awarding of Graduation Honors in the view of the honors advising committee, the student's name and the level of the award to be received will be forwarded by the principal honors advisor to the head of the concentration program. The program head will forward this information through the Residential College's Counseling Office to the University Recorder's Office for posting on the final transcript and on the diploma.