

Proposal for an Honors Sequence

First Year

HONS-H193: Ignatian Colloquium (1 cr.) [ALREADY EXISTS]

Second Year

Nothing

Third Year

HONS-H39-: Research Literacy (1 cr.).

In preparation for their senior project the following year, this course will introduce honors juniors to the basics of research (finding a topic / research methods / primary sources / discussion of what makes a good research question, etc.). This will include discussion sessions with readings, but also meetings with librarians from various disciplines who will introduce them to the sources for their field. Roughly half of the course (sprinkled throughout so it never gets boring) will be guest presentations by faculty members at Loyola who talk about their fields of research, their methodologies, databases, on-line sources, archival materials, etc.

Because we have so many honors students, this would work best by dividing the group into three by discipline: fine arts (including literature); natural sciences; social sciences & humanities. In this way, we could also tailor the courses to the fields of their research.

Fourth Year

HONS H49-: Thesis Process (1 cr.)

Students will be required to attend occasional group meetings (by discipline), or individually with the honors director or associate director to discuss the process of writing a thesis, with the ultimate goal of keeping the student on track for graduation. Assignments will include: the thesis contract; thesis abstract; thesis timeline; thesis prospectus and reading list; poster presentation of the thesis to the honors community; digital submission of final thesis to the library. Departmental faculty mentors will be expected to report to the honors' director at intervals on the student's progress.

This will, of course, accompany:

HONS H491: Thesis or Senior Project (3 cr.) [or the equivalent course in their department]

Whether the student is registered for the thesis option in honors or not, the departmental faculty mentor is responsible for working closely with the student and assigning a final grade.