



The College  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

***Interested in an Honors' Thesis? (Download the full guidelines at [http://go.brown.edu/ic\\_resources](http://go.brown.edu/ic_resources))***

### **How to Apply for Honors Candidacy**

Applicants must:

- Be in Good Academic Standing per the [Committee on Academic Standing](#)
- Have completed at least 2/3 of the IC requirements by the application deadline.
- Have earned mostly "A" grades or otherwise demonstrated high performance in the IC.
- Secure a faculty advisor and discuss plans for the proposed thesis project with the advisor during the student's 6<sup>th</sup> semester.
- Prepare a thesis proposal outlining the central research question or creative investigation and methods.
- Submit the proposal, signed by primary faculty advisor and two readers, to the IC Dean no later than **the third Friday of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester**.
- Enroll in 2 semesters of departmental independent study courses (DISP) or an alternative (a department's senior thesis writing course)

The honors thesis generally consists of:

1. A clear and sustained thesis or argument, or commitment to producing a creative body of work paired with critical analysis and reflection
2. A theoretical/conceptual framework
3. Primary sources
4. Persuasive, academically honest, and engaging argumentative writing
5. Conformity to proper academic presentation protocol (citation style)

### **Thesis Timeline & Deadlines**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Semester**

February-March (October-November for mid-years): Think about potential topics; contact potential advisor and readers.

May 15/December 15: Submit a working bibliography to potential advisor and readers.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Semester**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the term: Submit signed Proposal Form to Peggy Chang

4<sup>th</sup> week of the term: Accepted honors candidates must confirm registration in an independent study course.

December 15/May 15: Submit a partial draft (at least 1 chapter) to the honors committee for feedback.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Semester**

4<sup>th</sup> week of the term: Confirm registration in an independent study course.

March 15/November 15: Submit complete draft to the honors committee for feedback.

April 15/1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of December: Submit final honors thesis – single PDF to [margaret\\_chang@brown.edu](mailto:margaret_chang@brown.edu) confirm preferred method of submission with each reader/advisor.

April 30/3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of December: Honors committee's letters of recommendation are due to IC Dean via email.

### ***What is a capstone?***

A senior capstone experience can be any kind of project that draws on what you have learned in your concentration. It is usually completed in close consultation with an advisor and completed in one semester but sometimes over the course of two. **A two-semester honors thesis or one-semester independent study is one type of capstone experience. A performance or art opening is another.** And, depending on one's goals, a **focused internship or other kind of educational work experience could be another**, especially if carried out in consultation with a faculty mentor.

All ICs conclude with a capstone. Students can either write an honors' thesis over the course of 2 semesters or enroll in a 1-semester independent study course in either the fall or spring terms. The final project is presented publicly at the end of the senior year.

Students who wish to pursue honors should see the IC Honors Guidelines document for the general guidelines and a timeline and should meet with the IC Dean to learn more. For students who choose to do a capstone, a proposed timeline is below:

### **Capstone Timeline & Deadlines**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Semester**

February-March (October-November for mid-years):

- Think about your goals and potential topics; choose a semester to carry it out.
- Contact a potential advisor and, if appropriate, any organization or institution that will support or serve as the basis of your capstone (i.e., K-12 school, non-profit, etc.)

May 15/December 15

- Develop a timeline with your advisor and other stakeholders (see above)
- Consult IC Dean (Peggy Chang)

#### **Semester Prior to the Capstone (6<sup>th</sup> if capstone is in 7<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> if capstone is in 8<sup>th</sup>)**

Also, by May 15/December 15

- In consultation with your advisor, draft a 1-page proposal for your capstone, listing your learning goals, expected work products, and a timeline for completion. This serves as a contract of sorts between the two of you so that each understands the expectations and criteria for evaluating your project. It may help to create a full syllabus listing weekly assignments for the capstone semester.
- To reach this deadline, you must have clear communication **prior** to this point with any organization where you plan to conduct your research or capstone project.

#### **Capstone Semester (7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> semester)**

- Fill out the online [IC Capstone Plan form](http://go.brown.edu/ic_capstone) ([http://go.brown.edu/ic\\_capstone](http://go.brown.edu/ic_capstone))
- Enroll in DISP course by the "add" deadline (S/NC recommended)
- Work on your project at least 10 hrs./week – I advise only registering for 4 courses!
- Submit final project by the end of the term; treat this like a course!
- Present your project at the IC Capstone Presentation