

Honors Program

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers an honors program to anthropology majors seeking independent research opportunities. Students considering graduate school in Anthropology are particularly encouraged to pursue this option.

In order to qualify for entry into the honors program, students must have:

1. Completed at least 60 credits
2. Earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0
3. Completed at least three upper level courses in Anthropology
4. Earned a cumulative GPA in Sociology and Anthropology courses of 3.5

In order to graduate with an honors degree, the student must have:

1. Completed all requirements for the major
2. Achieved an overall GPA of 3.0
3. Achieved a GPA of 3.5 in Sociology and Anthropology courses combined
4. Taken at least 16 credits in Sociology and Anthropology courses at UMBC
5. Completed ANTH 491H and 492H
6. Completed an approved Honor's Thesis

The honors program consists of a two-course individual study sequence (ANTH 491H and ANTH 492H- Honors Thesis Research I and II, 3 credits each), in which the student completes a research project, called an Honors Thesis under the supervision of two full-time faculty members in the department who will serve as the Honors Committee.

The first step in entering the honors program is to recruit two full-time faculty members (assistant professors, associate professors, full professors, or lecturers) to agree to serve as Honors Committee members. To do this, students are encouraged to speak with faculty with whom they have already taken courses. They should consider what area of Anthropology interests them most. The *Student's Guide* and the department website contain listings of all full-time faculty members and their interests. Most faculty members will want to know the student before agreeing to serve on an Honors Committee. It is the student's responsibility to be sure that the committee has two faculty members.

The student will work with committee members to develop a research topic for the project, to which all parties must agree. The topic may focus on work done at UMBC or work related to an internship or other outside activity. The student will then write a brief description of the proposed project, spelling out what will be done in the independent honor's research courses, ANTH 410H and 492H.

ANTH 491H and 492H will be taken sequentially, ordinarily during the two semesters of the student's senior year. During these courses, the student will work under the supervision of one or both of the committee members to develop a more detailed research plan, obtain IRB clearance as necessary, conduct the research, and produce a polished Honor's thesis which both committee members approve. It is strongly recommended that students complete ANTH 480 before beginning the honors program, because the honors project will require knowledge of Anthropological methods. Students are not permitted to enroll in ANTH 492H until the Honors Committee is satisfied with the performance in ANTH 491H.

Toward the end of ANTH 492H, at least four weeks before the last day of classes (not including final examinations), the student must submit a draft of the thesis to each committee member, for their comments and suggestions for revision. At the end of the semester, students will submit a revised, final version of the Honors Thesis to each committee member for their joint consideration and approval. Students will submit the IRB closure report and ensure all consent documents remain with their advisor. All data will be maintained as specified in the IRB protocol.

Students who successfully complete all honors degree requirements and produce a polished, well-supported thesis which reflects well-conceptualized and carefully conducted independent research will be awarded Departmental Honors in Anthropology.