

HONORS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Requirements

Honors in the Major Field provides for independent research or special study during the senior year under the supervision of a three-member committee in the student's major. To be eligible for Honors in the Major Field, students must:

- achieve a minimum overall GPA of 'C+' (2.33) for all courses at Rollins,
- achieve a minimum overall GPA of 'B+' (3.33) for all courses taken in the major at Rollins, and
- receive endorsement of the committee for participation in the program.

Satisfactory performance on an approved thesis or individual project, an oral examination, and maintenance of the above averages qualifies a student for Honors in the Major Field, which is shown on the student's official academic transcript.

Honors Committee

Your committee should include at least three members, including your honors advisor and two additional committee members who are part of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program at Rollins College.

Honors as a Latin American and Caribbean Studies Course

Honors candidates must register for at least four credit hours of LAC 499. They may register for two hours over two semesters or may register for four credit hours during a single semester. The candidate will be assigned a separate grade for each semester based on the work done during that phase of the project. Preliminary research proposals, which are due no later than the end of the first week of class of the semester during which the student intends to begin their Honors research, will be circulated among the faculty members who teach in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program and must receive the support of the majority of them to proceed. Students must complete the Independent Study form and the Honors in the Major Declaration form available on the Student Records website. In most cases, completed theses should be a minimum of 50-75 pages in length, though some exceptions may be permitted. In all cases, a digital copy of the final thesis should be submitted to the director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program after it has been approved by the thesis committee.

One-Semester Honor Projects

During a one-semester honors project, students will review relevant literature, collect and analyze data, and write the thesis. The initial part of this process will take place primarily under

the guidance of the honors advisor, although the candidate may seek feedback from other committee members when necessary. This phase of the project will culminate in a meeting (“defense”) of the honors committee and candidate with the purpose of reviewing the discussing the candidate’s research and thesis.

Deadlines

While deadlines for this process are at the discretion of the honors committee, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program recommends the following deadlines:

25 days prior to the last day of class: “final draft” of thesis to honors advisor

14 days prior to the last day of class: revised draft (based on advisor’s feedback) to committee members

7 days prior to the last day of class: honors defense meeting with candidate and advisors

Last day of class: final draft of thesis revised according to committee’s comments

Defense meetings will usually last 1 to 1 ½ hours and will include a short presentation by the candidate, a question and answer session with the candidate, private discussion among the committee members where the candidate will be asked to leave the room, and a final discussion of the committee’s decision after the candidate rejoins the group. The meeting may result in the following decisions:

The thesis is accepted without revision and the candidate is awarded honors in the major (a rare outcome);

The thesis is accepted with some revision to take place before honors in the major is awarded (it may be decided that the revisions must be approved by the entire committee, specific members of the committee, or the honors advisor alone before the candidate can receive honors);

The thesis is rejected in its current form, but the candidate is invited to make major revisions and organize a second defense meeting; or

The thesis is not viewed as being of sufficient quality to warrant honors in the major (the candidate will still receive a grade for the semester of work but will not receive honors in the major).

Two-Semester Honors Projects

Honors Proposal and Literature Review (Semester 1)

The first semester of the Honors project will be devoted to writing the complete Honors' thesis proposal, which should be a minimum of 15-30 pages in length. Students will develop research questions, review published literature, and write the introductory chapter to their theses. The initial part of this process will take place primarily under the guidance of the honors advisor, although the candidate may seek feedback from other committee members when necessary. This phase of the project will culminate in a meeting ("defense") of the honors committee and candidate with the purpose of reviewing the discussing the candidate's research and thesis.

Deadlines (Semester 1)

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies program recommends that each of the following phases of the project take place no later than:

25 days prior to the last day of class: "final draft" of proposal to honors advisor

14 days prior to the last day of class: revised draft (based on advisor's feedback) to committee members

7 days prior to the last day of class: honors proposal revised according to committee's comments

Last day of class: final draft of proposal revised according to committee's comments

Proposal meetings will usually last 1 to 1½ hours and will include a short presentation by the candidate, a question and answer session with the candidate, a private discussion among the committee members where the candidate will be asked to leave the room, and a final discussion of the committee's decision after the candidate rejoins the group. The meeting may result in the following decisions:

The proposal is accepted without revision (a rare outcome);

The proposal is accepted with some revision (it may be decided that the revisions must be approved by the entire committee, specific members of the committee, or honors advisor alone before the candidate can proceed);

The proposal is rejected in its current form, but the candidate is invited to make major revisions and organize a second proposal meeting; or

The proposal is rejected and it is recommended that the candidate abandon the honors project (the candidate will still receive a grade for the single semester of work and the semester will still count as a 400 level course in the major provided that the candidate receives a passing grade).

Honors Research, Thesis, and Defense (Semester 2)

The second semester of the Honors project will be devoted to collecting and analyzing data, and finishing the honors thesis. The initial part of this process will take place primarily under the guidance of the honors advisor, although the candidate may seek feedback from other committee members when necessary. This phase of the project will culminate in a meeting (“defense”) of the honors committee and candidate with the purpose of reviewing the discussing the candidate’s research and thesis.

Deadlines (Semester 2)

While deadlines for this process are at the discretion of the honors committee, the Latin American and Caribbean Studies program recommends the following deadlines:

25 days prior to the last day of class: “final draft” of thesis to honors advisor

14 days prior to the last day of class: revised draft (based on advisor’s feedback) to committee members

7 days prior to the last day of class: honors defense meeting with candidate and advisors

Last day of class: final draft of thesis revised according to committee’s comments

Defense meetings will usually last 1 to 1 ½ hours and will include a short presentation by the candidate, a question and answer session with the candidate, private discussion among the committee members where the candidate will be asked to leave the room, and a final discussion of the committee’s decision after the candidate rejoins the group. The meeting may result in the following decisions:

The thesis is accepted without revision and the candidate is awarded honors in the major (a rare outcome);

The thesis is accepted with some revision to take place before honors in the major is awarded (it may be decided that the revisions must be approved by the entire committee, specific members of the committee, or the honors advisor alone before the candidate can receive honors);

The thesis is rejected in its current form, but the candidate is invited to make major revisions and organize a second defense meeting; or

The thesis is not viewed as being of sufficient quality to warrant honors in the major (the candidate will still receive a grade for the semester of work but will not receive honors in the major).