

**STATEMENT OF INTENT FORM  
HONORS PROGRAM IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
2020-21**

Please complete this form and include a copy of your unofficial transcript as well as a 1-page statement containing the information listed below. Please email completed forms and other documents to Melinda Nelson at [mmonro@umich.edu](mailto:mmonro@umich.edu) by **March 30, 2020** (it is still possible to declare your intent to do honors after this date, please see an advisor as soon as possible).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UM ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cumulative GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your thesis research will be in which subfield of Anthropology:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH A ONE PAGE (single spaced) STATEMENT CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

- 1) A brief description of your interest in anthropology.
- 2) Your ideas about an honors thesis topic and information you will examine.
- 3) A paragraph that outlines your previous coursework, field, and/or lab experience that you will build on for your thesis research.
- 4) A list of readings that you will use to develop your thesis research.
- 5) A faculty member who you will ask to be your thesis advisor or indicate that you need help finding a thesis advisor.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# The Honors Program in Anthropology

The honors program in anthropology is an exceptional opportunity for undergraduate majors in anthropology or evolutionary anthropology to develop a research project on a subject of their choice and write a senior honors thesis under the guidance of two faculty members, and a graduate student mentor (optional). Students in the anthropology honors program not only have the opportunity to work with faculty who are especially committed to undergraduate education, but with other highly motivated anthropology honors students in a small seminar setting.

Completing an honors thesis is a wonderful opportunity for students who want an intensive research experience, who are passionate about a topic or issue, and who would like in-depth hands-on research and writing experience during their senior year. Students should be aware that it is a demanding, as well as rewarding, process.

## Requirements for completing Honors in Anthropology

1. 3.5 GPA by the time you graduate
2. Complete any recommended prerequisites for particular subfield (see <http://lsa.umich.edu/anthro/undergraduates/honors-program.html>)
3. Enroll in the anthropology honors courses during your senior year

NOTE: no prior experience in the LSA Honors Program is required.

## Declaring your intent to write an honors thesis in Anthropology

To become part of the Anthropology Honors Program, you must submit the statement of intent form with a copy of your unofficial transcript, and a one-page statement that describes your interest in anthropology and briefly the topic(s) you are considering for your thesis research. Submit the form in March. NOTE: requests will be considered after this deadline, but you must meet with an undergraduate advisor in anthropology or an honors advisor before submitting the form.

Undergraduate Advisors:

Thom Chivens ([tchivens@umich.edu](mailto:tchivens@umich.edu))

Melinda Nelson ([mmonro@umich.edu](mailto:mmonro@umich.edu))

Honors Advisors:

Sociocultural or Linguistic Anthropology: Matt Hull ([hullm@umich.edu](mailto:hullm@umich.edu))

Anthropological Archaeology: Raven Garvey ([garveyr@umich.edu](mailto:garveyr@umich.edu))

Biological/Evolutionary Anthropology: Jacinta Beehner ([jbeehner@umich.edu](mailto:jbeehner@umich.edu))

## Sources of funding for honors thesis research

**LSA Honors Program** (<https://lsa.umich.edu/honors/current-students/honors-awards---grants.html>)

Deadlines in November and March

**Department of Anthropology** (<https://lsa.umich.edu/anthro/undergraduates/funding.html>)

Deadlines in October and March

**Museum of Anthropological Archaeology** (<https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa/student-opportunities/undergraduate-opportunities.html>)

Deadline in March

## **Ideal timeline for writing an honors thesis**

Students interested in writing an honors thesis should ideally begin considering the process in the Fall semester of their junior year.

### **Fall Term, Junior Year**

- Begin thinking about pursuing an honors major and possible thesis topics
- Take classes or look for field/lab experiences that will help prepare you for your thesis research
- If you will be traveling outside the U.S. in the summer to carry out your research, consider applying for funding during this term, department funding application deadline for the fall round is mid-October

### **Winter Term, Junior Year**

- Meeting with the undergraduate advisor and/or honors advisor in your subfield
- Consider applying for funding to carry out your research, if needed, department funding application deadline is mid-March
- Consider applying for an honors summer fellowship (deadline: end of January) (<https://lsa.umich.edu/honors/current-students/honors-summer-fellowship.html>)
- Complete the anthropology honors intent form, due at the end of March
- With help from undergraduate or honors advisor:
  - Find a faculty advisor with whom you will work on your thesis. In some cases the advisor may be from another department
  - Focus your research topic and begin to plan your research
  - Begin the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process, if appropriate

### **Summer between Junior and Senior Year**

- Begin or continue working on the IRB approval process, if appropriate
- Develop a bibliography for your thesis topic and begin reading background literature
- Collect the information you will use for your thesis research

### **Fall Term, Senior Year**

- Enroll in the Honors seminar in the subfield of your research
- Collect the information you will use for your thesis research
- Refine your plan for your research

### **Winter Term, Senior Year**

- Enroll in the Honors seminar, which will focus on thesis writing
- Complete your thesis
- Participate in the Honors Research Poster Symposium

## **General Information**

The six credits from the two honors seminars count toward the required credits for a major in anthropology or evolutionary anthropology.

To graduate with honors, students must complete all of the general requirements for the major in anthropology or evolutionary anthropology in addition to completing the honors thesis. Students will graduate with one of the following: “with honors,” “with high honors,” or “with highest honors” based on the quality of their thesis and academic career.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity! If you have any additional questions about how to begin doing honors in anthropology, please set up an appointment with the Undergraduate Advisor on-line at:

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/anthro/undergraduates/advising>