

To: Concentrators in Public Policy and American Institutions
From: Dr. Brett Clifton
Subject: Honors Program in Public Policy
Date: January 29, 2003

The purpose of this memorandum is to describe the honors program in Public Policy and American Institutions, the procedures for applying to become an honors candidate, the criteria that will be used in selecting students for the honors program, and the requirements for graduating with "honors" in Public Policy.

The criteria for honors in a standard concentration program are listed on page 148 of the 2002-2003 *Brown Course Announcement*.

At graduation, the University grants honors to students whose work in their field of concentration has been of superior quality and has culminated in an honors thesis of distinction....An advisor will review the student's course work and determine if the student qualifies as an honors candidate. If the student is accepted as an honors candidate, the advisor will notify the registrar of this fact. **Conference of honors standing is then contingent upon the quality of the student's honors thesis** (emphasis added).

Honors Program in Public Policy. Students with outstanding academic records in their course work in Public Policy and American Institutions or Law and Public Policy (generally an intra-concentration GPA of 3.3 or above) are admitted to honors candidacy at the end of their junior year. During their senior year, honors candidates enroll in the two-semester Public Policy Honors Colloquium (PP 190-191) and prepare senior research papers that examine the interplay among institutions in the resolution of important public policy problems. Those candidates who write senior research papers of distinguished quality are recommended for "honors" in the concentration.

Application for Honors. Junior concentrators who wish to become candidates for honors in Public Policy should complete the enclosed application and return it with all supporting materials to Dr. Brett Clifton at 67 George Street by 5:00pm on **Friday, April 4, 2003**. Students who plan to graduate in December 2004 and wish to be considered for honors in Public Policy should also apply at this time and, if accepted, enroll in the Colloquium during the 2003-2004 academic year.

Criteria for Admission to the Honors Colloquium. Admission to the Honors Program in Public Policy is based on the student's academic record in the concentration (generally a GPA of 3.3 or above), the quality of the proposed research topic, and the student's preparation for undertaking the proposed project (e.g., electives in the concentration, relevant work in courses outside the concentration, work/internship experience, etc.). To become an honors candidate, a student must have completed at least six courses in the concentration on a graded basis by the end of his or her junior year. Three of these courses must be Introduction to Public Policy (PS10); Statistics (PS160, Ed111, or Soc110); and Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation (PS120) or Evaluating the Impact of Social Programs (Ed116).

Senior Research Paper. The senior research paper should examine the interplay among institutions in the resolution of an important public policy problem. Students are strongly encouraged to select research projects that involve original data collection and analysis, although theoretical research topics are also permitted. Senior research papers of past honors graduates are available for inspection at the Taubman Center.

Internships and Junior Fellowships. The faculty strongly encourages honors candidates to serve an internship in a government agency, business firm, or advocacy group, or other organization involved in public policy in an area related to the student's proposed research topic during the summer between the junior and senior years. Each year the Center awards stipends to several outstanding students in the concentration to support their internship activity. Preference is given to those students who have been admitted to the honors program. For further information on the internship program, contact Dr. Brett Clifton.

Faculty Advisors. Students are required to select two faculty members to serve as advisors for their senior research papers. One advisor may be selected from faculty outside the Taubman Center, although the student's primary advisor must be selected from the Taubman Center faculty (Scott Allard, Thomas Anton, Ross Cheit, Brett Clifton, Brooke Harrington, Carl Kaestle, Brian Knight, Patrick McGuigan, Marion Orr, Wendy Schiller, Elizabeth Tobin Tyler, John Tyler, Darrell West, Michael White, and the two postdoctoral Fellows who will be hired for the 2003-2004 academic year).

Public Policy Colloquium. Students admitted to honors candidacy should enroll in Public Policy 190 during the Fall 2002 semester. The purpose of the Colloquium is to assist students in the formulation and development of their research projects. Weekly meetings will focus on research strategies, and provide students an opportunity for faculty and peer feedback on their projects. Students will be required to prepare a research prospectus that includes a statement of the problem to be investigated, a review of the relevant literature, and discussion of the research design, including methods of data collection and analysis. Students who have not made satisfactory progress by the end of the Fall semester will be dropped from the honors program. In the Spring 2004 semester, honors candidates should register for Public Policy 191.

Criteria for Awarding Honors in Public Policy. In addition to the student's two faculty advisors, the Public Policy faculty will review each senior research paper. Students who write senior research papers that, in the judgment of the Taubman Center faculty, are of distinguished quality, are recommended for honors in Public Policy.

If you have any questions regarding the Public Policy honors program, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss them.