Interested in an Honors’ Thesis?
[Excerpt from “Honors Guidelines for the Independent Concentration”
http://brown.edu/go/ic]

How to Apply for Honors Candidacy
Applicants must:
• Be in Good Academic Standing
• Have completed at least 2/3 of the IC requirements by the application deadline
• Have earned a majority of “A” grades in the IC
• Secure a faculty advisor, and discuss plans for the proposed thesis project with
  the advisor during the student's 6th semester
• Prepare a thesis proposal ...outlining the major research questions and methods
• Submit the proposal, signed by primary faculty advisor, to the IC Dean no later
  than the third Friday of the 7th semester
• Enroll in 2 semesters of departmental independent study courses (DISP)

...[T]he honors thesis generally consists of:
1. A clear and sustained thesis or argument
2. A theoretical framework
3. Primary sources
4. Persuasive, academically honest, and engaging argumentative writing
5. Conformity to proper academic presentation protocol

Thesis Timeline & Deadlines
6th 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

7th Semester
3rd Friday of the term (Fall 2014: Sept. 19): Submit signed Proposal Form to UH 201
4th 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

8th Semester
4th 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 15/1st Friday of December: Submit final honors thesis – single PDF to
margaret_chang@brown.edu confirm preferred method of submission with each
  reader/advisor
April 30/3rd Friday of December: Honors committee’s letters of recommendation are due
to IC Dean via email

What is a capstone?
[Excerpt from Brown’s Senior Capstone Projects site]
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. An honors thesis or independent study is one obvious type of capstone. 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 reverse side of this sheet for general guidelines and a timeline, and should visit the IC website for details. For students who choose another type of capstone, a proposed timeline is below:

**Capstone Timeline & Deadlines**

**6th 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

**Semester Prior to the Capstone (6th if capstone is in 7th, 7th if capstone is in 8th)**

*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 are conducting your research or project

**Capstone Semester**

* Enroll in departmental independent study 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