

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, or commitment to producing a creative body of work paired with critical analysis and reflection
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: Submit signed Proposal Form to Peggy Chang

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 (revised for Spring 2021)

4th week of the term: Confirm registration in an independent study course

March 19/November 15: Submit complete draft to the honors committee for feedback

April 2/1st Friday of December: Submit final honors thesis – single PDF to margaret_chang@brown.edu confirm preferred method of submission with each reader/advisor

April 8/3rd Friday of December: Honors committee's letters of recommendation are due to IC Dean via email

What is a capstone?

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 and completed in one semester but sometimes over the course of two. **A two-semester honors thesis or one-semester independent study is one type of capstone experience. 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 IC Honors Guidelines document for the general guidelines and a timeline, and should meet with the IC Dean to learn more. For students who choose to do a 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 (Peggy Chang)

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 plan to conduct your research or capstone project

Capstone Semester

- Enroll in DISP 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