

**Africana Studies & Research Center**

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**Proposal for Honors Thesis**

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Thesis Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (All Courses): \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (ASRC Courses Only): \_\_\_\_\_

(This is done by figuring the GPA using only the courses with the prefix of "ASRC". Please do not count FWS's or language courses in major GPA)

**Please include the following supporting materials with your application.**

1) Your statement of interest. Discuss one topic that you propose to explore in your honors thesis. Your proposal should be approximately 250 words in length.

2) A copy of your Cornell transcript and, if you are a transfer student, also a copy of your transcript from your original college/university.

Thesis Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print or type name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print or type name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

(Optional) Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
(print or type name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Admission to the Honors Program

For admission to the honors program, candidates must have at least a 3.5 GPA in the major and a minimum 3.0 overall GPA and have demonstrated superior performance overall in Africana courses.

### Honors Degree Requirements

Candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts with honors in Africana must fulfill the normal requirements of the major as well as enroll in the honors courses, ASRC 4900 in the fall and ASRC 4901 in the spring semesters of their senior year. After consulting with their major adviser, candidates should submit an honors application and proposal to the department.

### Application

Students who wish to be considered for honors should fill out an application and follow up the preliminary project description, develop a five-to-eight page proposal outlining the project. The proposal should include your general question, your specific materials, your research design, a bibliography, and a schedule for your work. It is strongly recommended that proposals be made by the end of the junior year, but proposals will be accepted through the third week of the fall semester of the senior year. Applications must be endorsed by the student's honors thesis supervisor and turned into the main office.

\* Note that initial acceptance into the honors program does not ensure permission to continue in it. Students must demonstrate to the satisfaction of their supervisor that they are making progress on their project by the end of their first semester in order to advance to the second.

### Honors Committee

The honors committee consists of a supervisor and one or two other members. The supervisor frequently, but not always, is the student's major advisor. If the advisor is not the thesis supervisor, he or she is normally a member of the committee. Only professorial faculty are eligible to supervise projects.

### Honors Program Timeline

#### Fall Semester

Regular meetings with the honors thesis advisor and committee member(s) throughout the year. Enrollment in ASRC 4900, which allows students to conduct research and begin writing the honors thesis. At the end of fall semester, submission to the supervisor for evaluation 15-20 pages of the thesis along with an outline of the whole project.

#### Mid-Year Evaluation

The candidate's honors committee evaluates the progress in December/January and makes recommendations about continuation; students will be apprised of the outcome of their evaluation by the beginning of the spring semester. Students whose work is not progressing satisfactorily will be granted independent study units and a grade for their work in the fall semester, but will no longer continue in the honors program. Students who are progressing satisfactorily will register in ASRC 4901 in the spring semester.

#### Spring Semester

Regular meetings with the honors thesis advisor and committee member(s) and enrollment in ASRC 4901, which allows students to complete their thesis work. The thesis, between 60-75 pages in length, is due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Unbound copies should be prepared for the thesis advisor, committee member(s), and the DUS.

### Final Thesis Evaluation:

Students must successfully complete the Africana major and must continue to maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA in the major and a minimum GPA of 3.0 overall. After submitting the thesis on April 15, students will receive feedback from their advisors and other committee members about required revisions; students will generally have two weeks to submit a final draft of the thesis. In early May, a 'thesis defense' will be held with all

committee members. The defense is a conversation between the honors candidate and her/his full committee, providing the candidate with the opportunity formally to present her/his research in oral form and to address the substantive concerns of the committee. The oral defense with your committee may be held no later than one week after the last day of classes. Final evaluation of the thesis will be determined by the committee after the thesis defense. Students will be given a grade for ASRC 4901 based on their **effort** and *may* be awarded Latin honors (Bachelor of Arts *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude* ) based on the committee's evaluation of the **scholarly achievement** represented in the thesis.

Determination of Latin Honors:

In evaluating a thesis, faculty members take into consideration intellectual creativity, methodological innovation, scholarly rigor, and overall quality of presentation. Students should therefore ensure that the thesis is also well-written, impeccably edited, and abides by the footnote format conventional for their discipline of choice (e.g., Chicago, MLA). A student whose thesis is meritorious, well-argued, and relies on a methodologically sound use of primary sources may be awarded *cum laude*. A student whose project shows considerable originality and scope, methodological sophistication, and uncommon quality may be awarded *magna cum laude*. A student whose project is of truly exceptional quality, makes a real contribution to the field, and is deemed publishable may be awarded *summa cum laude*.

In deciding on the specific level of Latin honors, the committee may consider a candidate's **complete** academic record, not merely the thesis.