Honors BA Thesis
Info Session
Anthropology
“Where do I start?”
With an idea

If you have an idea for original research—whether it’s a half-baked thought or a full proposal from Ethnographic Methods—you’ve already begun.

All you need is to write a short paragraph with:

1. A preliminary research question
2. Brainstormed fieldwork sites
3. Potential “populations” to worth with
What is an Honors BA Thesis?

To receive honors, students must develop an extended piece of research via a bachelor’s essay under the approved supervision of a regular Anthropology faculty member.

The final work will be approximately 30 pages/10,000 words, which is the average length of a professional academic article.

BA projects involving alternative media (e.g., film, photography, art installation) might be acceptable if accompanied by a written text.
What are the key elements?

Students pursuing honors have...

- Dept. GPA +3.6
  - Overall 3.25
- Supervisor = regular Anth faculty member
- 2nd reader = Credentialed scholar approved by DUS
- Completed IRB and research benchmarks
- Met key deadlines
Let's break it down into steps…

1) Find your supervisor and second reader

**Do this NOW**

- Supervisor = Regular Anthro Department faculty

- Second reader = Any credentialed scholar/scientist approved by DUS

Bring “Petition to Write BA Essay” form to Haskell 119 by end of May
2) Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Summer Fieldwork

- IRB required for projects with major ethnographic components

- IRB may take up to 2 months to complete—submit forms ASAP* for your Summer research
  *no later than next month

- Complete IRB process online

- IRB requires you complete CITI Training

- Summer funding opportunities for those with Spring approvals
3) Your ideal writing timeline

Every quarter you must set aside one class slot

- ASAP BA Thesis Petition
- May Deadline Summer Funding
- Autumn 2023 Thesis Workshop
- Spring 2024 Independent Research/Writing
- April Deadline CITI Training & IRB
- Summer 2023 Fieldwork
- Winter 2024 BA Essay Seminar
- BA Thesis Symposium
Who to contact with additional questions

And where to find essential resources:

- BA thesis process summary [https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-study/major](https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-study/major)
- All required forms [https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/content/undergraduate-student-forms](https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/content/undergraduate-student-forms)
- Past BA Thesis projects [https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/content/ba-thesis-projects](https://anthropology.uchicago.edu/content/ba-thesis-projects)
- Summer funding [https://anthropologydev.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-study/honorsandprizes](https://anthropologydev.uchicago.edu/undergraduate-study/honorsandprizes)
- CITI training [https://sbsirb.uchicago.edu/training/](https://sbsirb.uchicago.edu/training/)