

Global Studies & Political Economy

Honors Program

To be eligible for honors, students must be declared in the major, have senior standing, and a GPA of 3.6 in the major and 3.5 in all coursework completed at UC Berkeley. All upper-division major courses will be used to calculate the major GPA. A student MUST have completed and received a grade for at least FOUR upper-division major courses to be considered for the Honors Program. Honors must be completed in residence at UCB.

Once approved for the honors program, students must enroll in the two-semester honors seminar, GLOBAL H102 (fall only) and GLOBAL H195 or POLECON H195 (spring only). The honors seminar is taken in addition to a student's regular course work for fulfilling requirements for the major and culminates in the writing of a senior thesis. To qualify for H195, students must be recommended by the GLOBAL H102 instructor. The thesis is read by the H195 instructor and at least one other faculty member who is selected by the student in consultation with the thesis instructor. Please consult a program advisor about honors eligibility.

There is no guarantee that students accepted into the honors program will graduate with honors. Honors recommendations are made after graduation and are based on a number of factors including (but not limited to) major GPA, grades received for H102 and H195, and faculty adviser recommendations.

Preparing for Honors: Spring semester, junior year

1. Begin to explore thesis topics in the spring semester of your junior year. The most successful topics arise out of something you have studied or have been interested in for some time.
2. Determine who your Faculty Thesis Advisor will be. Your topic will determine who you ask to be your Faculty Thesis Advisor. Most faculty will only advise on topics in their subject area and prefer to work with students they know or have taught. Many will limit the number of students with whom they work.
3. Attend an Honors Orientation Workshop. This is a Q & A session with faculty and students in the current honors class. They will answer your questions about the experience of writing a major thesis, the pros and cons, and how much work it really is. Misassumptions abound about doing honors and this is an opportunity to learn the real story. Workshops are held only once in the spring semester. Watch for the date in the Departmental newsletter.

The Seminar: GLOBAL H102 and GLOBAL/POLECON H195

GLOBAL H102, Scope and Methods of Research course provides an introduction to research methodology. Enrollment is by Class Entry Code only. If eligible, you must attend the first class and submit an honors proposal, a 750-1000 word typewritten document describing the topic.

The quality of the thesis proposal is a critical part of the application. Having met the GPA standards, your admission to the honors seminar will be based on how well conceived out your honors proposal is.

(Note: GLOBAL H102 will fulfill the methodology requirement for the Global Studies major.)

GLOBAL/POLECON H195, Senior Honors Thesis Seminar, in which you will present weekly progress reports on your thesis writing. Enrollment is by Class Entry Code. To be admitted, you must meet the minimum honors GPA requirements, you must be recommended by the GLOBAL H102 instructor, and you must have a viable hypothesis for your research papers (as determined by the instructor).

Completed honors theses are read and graded by the GLOBAL/POLECON H195 instructor and the Faculty Thesis Advisor). The instructor will determine the final grade for the course.

Graduating with honors

The level of honors you receive (Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors) is determined by three factors:

- overall GPA
- GPA in the major
- thesis grade

Students who complete honors are eligible to wear gold honors cords at Commencement and Departmental Honors will be noted on your transcript and diploma. All completed theses are considered for the Global Studies or Political Economy Outstanding Honors Thesis Award, which is bestowed at the Commencement ceremony.

Incompletes in honors

An honors thesis must be completed on time in order to graduate with honors. If you take an incomplete in honors but do not postpone graduation, you will graduate without honors. If you postpone graduation by removing your name from the Degree List, you may still graduate with honors once your thesis is completed.

Other forms of honors recognition

Distinction in General Scholarship. All students with high GPAs automatically graduate with Distinction, High Distinction, or Highest Distinction (comparable to *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*). Distinction levels are set by the Registrar and vary slightly each year, but are approximately 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9. To earn distinction, a minimum of 50 units must be taken at UCB (including EAP and UC in DC) and no less than 43 units must be taken for a letter grade (not including Phys Ed courses).

Dean's Honors List and Honors to Date are additional ways students can gain recognition. See the L&S Undergraduate website for more info: <https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/policies/deans-listhonors>.