Actuarial and Mathematical Sciences

- A student may be admitted formally to the Department’s honors program in actuarial science at any time after the sophomore year. However, any student who is interested in the program should see the Director of the Actuarial Science Program as early as possible for informal advisement concerning the honors thesis. To be admitted, the applicant must have an academic average in all University courses of at least 3.30, and an academic average in all mathematics courses of at least 3.40
  - The requirements for graduation with honors include:
    - Required courses: A MAT 468 together with the other required courses of the Actuarial Science major.
    - An acceptable honors thesis presented in a public venue.
    - An academic average of at least 3.30 in all University courses and at least 3.40 in all mathematics courses numbered 400 or above.

Africana Studies

- The Honors Program in the Department of Africana Studies is designed to enhance the academic excellence of its majors, to forge closer intellectual relationships between students and the faculty, and to prepare students for graduate studies and for their professional careers.
- Admission Requirements:
  - Minimum Overall GPA: 3.25
  - Minimum GPA in major: 3.50
- To be eligible for a degree with honors, the student must have a cumulative grade-point average in University courses of at least 3.25, with a 3.50 minimum grade-point average in the major. Students may apply for admission to the Honors Program as early as the spring semester of the sophomore year. Applications must be submitted to the Director of the Honors Program. The Director of the Honors Program and the Departmental Honors Committee will review the applications.
- Required Courses
  Students must complete any two of the following courses in the Department of Africana Studies: A AFS 325 (Introduction to Research Methods); A AFS 345 (The Black Novel); A AFS 375 (Black Popular Culture); A AFS 355Z (Introduction to African and African American Poetry), A AFS 320 (Black Nationalism: Political Perspective in Africa), and A AFS 322 (Developing African Nations). Students must complete A AFS 490 the Senior Seminar for African/African American Studies majors as part of the Honors program.
- Required Honors Project
  The Director of the Honors Program will assist students in the selection of their faculty advisor for their Honors thesis. Students must submit their written Honors project proposal to their faculty advisor for approval. Students will work on a major research project under the careful supervision of their faculty advisor. Students are expected to engage in a critical and in-depth analysis on their chosen topic. The Honors project should be between 40 and 60 pages in length. Students will begin their Honors thesis in A AFS 490. Students must also take A AFS 498 (Topics in African Studies) or A AFS 499 (Topics in African American Studies) to complete the Honors thesis. The thesis will be
graded by the faculty advisor. The Honors thesis must be approved by the Director of the Honors Program and at least one other professor on the Honors Committee. Students will make an oral presentation of their thesis at a departmental seminar. The Honors course credits will be counted toward the 36 credits required for majors in Africana Studies.

- Honors students in Africana Studies are required to maintain the minimum grade-point average of 3.50 in the major and at least a 3.25 minimum grade-point average in University courses. The Departmental Honors Committee will review the academic performance of each candidate at the completion of the junior year. Students who fail to meet the Honors program’s academic standards during their senior year will be ineligible for a degree with Honors. Students who have successfully completed the program requirements will be recommended to the department by the Departmental Honors Committee to receive the degree with honors in Africana Studies.

Departmental Contact: Dr. Marcia Sutherland

Anthropology Honors Program

- Outstanding anthropology students are encouraged to consider the department’s honors program, which is designed to give them the opportunity to work closely with members of the faculty on research and writing projects. Declared majors in anthropology are eligible to apply, provided that they have completed 12 or more credits in the department with a grade point average in the major of at least 3.50. They must also have an overall grade point average of at least 3.25. To participate in the program, students should contact their adviser during their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year. Students should plan their course work in consultation with their faculty adviser.

- Students in the honors program must fulfill the requirements for the major plus the following requirements:
  - Environment
  - Among the 36 credits of course work in anthropology required for the major, students in the honors program must complete at least one course at the 300 or 400 level in each of three different subdisciplines (archaeology, cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, linguistics), for a total of 9 credits:
    - Biological Anthropology: 310, 311, 312, 319, 414, 416, 418, 419.

- Students must write an honors thesis based upon original research under the direction of an anthropology faculty member. Any anthropology faculty member knowledgeable in your topic may supervise a thesis project. A written proposal for the intended project must be formally approved by that faculty member and the departmental Undergraduate Affairs Committee during the semester prior to the semester in which the thesis is completed. Students will enroll in A ANT 482 and 483, “Senior Honors Thesis Seminar,” during the fall and spring of their senior year. The 6 credits from these courses can be counted toward the 36 credits required for the Anthropology major.

- Research skill: Students will complete 6 credits of coursework in a research skill appropriate for anthropological research. Examples include, but are not limited to, foreign
languages, statistics or other quantitative courses, and anthropological methods courses. The research skill courses must be approved by the Undergraduate Affairs Committee.

- To graduate with “honors in anthropology,” students must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.25 and a minimum grade point average of 3.50 in the major, in addition to the above requirements.

**Art studio**

- The Honors Program is designed for the exceptionally talented and committed student of art. Successful completion of the program is excellent preparation for graduate work in the Fine Arts. Studio space for Honors Students is limited. Successful completion of the program earns an Honors Certificate in Art and a nomination for graduating with “Honors in Art” from the University.
- Students may present a portfolio for admission to the Honors Program to the Undergraduate Director in the second semester of their junior year or the first semester of their senior year. In order to be eligible for admission to the Honors Program, a student must be accepted as a 60-credit major and have completed at least 12 credits of studio course work. An applicant should have an overall grade point average of 3.25 or higher and a 3.5 or higher in all courses applicable toward the major. Applicants must submit a portfolio of 10 works in their area of concentration. The portfolio must demonstrate visual literacy, technical mastery, creative potential, and the drive and maturity to work independently in order to cultivate a distinctive personal direction. The Honors Committee may waive the entry requirements where appropriate. Decisions of the Honors Committee are final and are not subject to review or appeal.
- Students in the Honors Program are required to complete a minimum of 60 credits, meeting all the requirements of the major. In addition, students must complete an Honors Project for 6-12 credits of studio course work and complete A ART 496, the Mentor Tutorial. The Honors Project mentor will be a member of the faculty who regularly works with the student’s area of concentration. Critiques will be conducted during regular course offerings. An overall grade point average of 3.25 or higher and an average of 3.5 or higher in all courses applicable toward the major must be maintained in each semester of the program. Students dismissed from the program cannot be readmitted unless the grades on which dismissal is based were in error and are officially changed.

**Art History**

- Degree Requirements for Honors in Art History
  - Required core courses (9 credits): A ARH 170, 171; 3 credits from A ARH 450 or 499.
  - Lower Division Electives (9 credits): A ARH 205-298; A ANT 233/A LCS 233; A CLA 207, 208, 209; A EAC 280.
  - Upper Division Electives (18 credits): all 300 and 400 level A ARH courses; A ANT 334, 433; A CLA 490; A HIS 303Z.
  - Within their elective coursework, Honors students must take at least one course from each of the following areas:
    - Ancient Art (A ARH 205-209; A ARH 270; A ARH 301-302; A ARH 310; A ARH 401-406; A CLA 490)
    - Medieval Art (A ARH 230; A ARH 303; A ARH 331-332; A ARH 432; A ARH 442)
Early Modern Art (A ARH 341-352; A ARH 450)
Modern and Contemporary Art (A ARH 365-366; A ARH 466-468)
Film and Photography (A ARH 260-269; A ARH 361-363; A ARH 367-369; A ARH 460-462)
Non-Western Art (A ARH 280; A ANT 233; A ANT 344; A ANT 433)

Within their upper-level elective coursework, Honors students must also take:
A. An additional research seminar (A ARH 499, which can be repeated for credit, or A ARH 450): In this additional research seminar, Honors students must fulfill two out of the following three special research tasks:
- Examination of an original work of art, or a building or archaeological site
- Research in a foreign language
- Incorporation of three or more primary sources into his or her research

B. Two consecutive Independent Study courses (A ARH 497) in their last two semesters, in which they pursue an Honors thesis under the supervision of a faculty member in Art History

The thesis may consist of two separate but thematically interlinked research papers, completed in each of the two semesters; or it may consist of four interlinked papers, two per semester; or it may be a single paper whose research and preparation extends over both semesters. In all cases the student must produce 60 pages of writing, including endnotes and bibliography. The research the Honors students perform on their thesis must incorporate two out of the three special “Honors” tasks identified above.

Evaluation of Honors students
Halfway through their last semester, Honors students must give an oral presentation on their Honors thesis to the Honors committee, which will be composed of three members of the Art History faculty, as well as the Honors supervisor if he or she is not on the committee. The committee will use an agreed-upon standard of assessment to evaluate the student’s performance, including the following:
- The thesis must be clearly developed and the findings near or at completion.
- The presentation must thoroughly present both thesis and findings, using Power Point slides (or an equivalent presentation tool) with images.
- The presentation should take approximately 30 minutes, followed by a 30-minute period of questions by the faculty committee.
- The faculty committee’s assessment of the presentation will be factored into the final grade awarded by the faculty member of record who is supervising the Honors thesis. At the presentation the committee will also offer constructive feedback for the student to use in completing his or her thesis.

Atmospheric Science

- Students who have by the end of their fourth semester attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in courses required of the major in atmospheric science may apply to the department chair for the program leading to a B.S. degree with honors in atmospheric science. Applications must be submitted before the end of the first semester of the student’s junior year and must be accompanied by letters of recommendation from at least two faculty members.
- To be admitted to the program, a student must have completed two semesters of physics (A PHY 140 or 141 or T PHY 141, A PHY 145, A PHY 150 or 151 or T PHY 151), three
semesters of mathematics (A MAT 111 or 112 or 118 or T MAT 118, A MAT 113 or 119 or T MAT 119, A MAT 214), and must be enrolled in or have completed A ATM 316. These requirements may be altered, upon request, for qualified transfer students. At the end of the junior year, the student’s program will be reviewed by the Honors Committee to see if satisfactory progress is being made.

- To be eligible for a degree with honors, students must complete a minimum of 82 credits specified as follows: (1) the general program B.S.; (2) any two additional A ATM courses from 301 or higher, excluding A ATM 304; and (3) 6 credits of A ATM 499 taken over at least two semesters culminating in a significant undergraduate thesis and an honors seminar in the student’s final semester. No more than 9 credits from A ATM 490, 497, 498 or 499 may be applied to the major requirements; a maximum of 3 credits from A ATM 490 will apply. One of A ATM 306, 405, 415, or A ENV 450 must be included within the entire set of electives. Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall and 3.50 in the major coursework during the junior and senior years.

- Upon completion of the requirements, the honors committee will make its recommendation to the faculty to grant the degree with honors in atmospheric science based upon the candidate’s (1) academic record, (2) research project report, (3) honors seminar, and (4) faculty recommendations.

**Biology/ Biochemistry & Molecular Biology**

- The honors program is designed for outstanding students in programs leading to the B.S. degree in either Biology or Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Students may apply for admission to the honors program by submitting a letter of request to the departmental honors committee no later than April 15 of the freshman or sophomore year (for admission for the fall) or November 15 of the sophomore year (for admission in the spring). Junior transfers may apply at the time of their admission to the University. Students found acceptable by the committee must find a research adviser to supervise the independent study leading to an HONORS THESIS.

- The requirements for admission include: (1) the candidate must declare the major and have completed (or have in progress at time of application) 12 credits of course work required for the biology major, including A BIO 120 & 121 and A BIO 201 & 202Z; (2) an overall grade point average of 3.50; (3) a grade point average of 3.50 in courses required for the major; and (4) a written recommendation from an adviser, professor or teaching assistant if possible. Primary emphasis will be placed on indications of academic ability and maturity sufficient for applicants to complete with distinction a program involving independent research.

- Students in the program are required to complete a minimum of 65 or 66 credits as specified for the respective program for the B.S. and must include: (1) at least 6 credits of independent study (A BIO 399, 499); the independent study, or honors research project, which will result in an HONORS THESIS; (2) at least 3 credits of course work at the 500 level or higher (not including A BIO 515) in the student’s area of interest; and (3) oral presentation of research at a public seminar.
• Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.50 overall and in biology courses taken to satisfy major requirements during the junior and senior years. The progress of participants in the honors program will be reviewed at the end of the sophomore and junior years by the student’s advisor and the departmental honors committee. Students not meeting academic and independent research standards may be precluded from continuing in the program during their senior year. These students may, of course, continue as Biology majors.

• After completion of the requirements above, the departmental honors committee will make its recommendation to the faculty to grant the degree “with honors in biology” based upon (1) overall academic record, (2) performance and accomplishments of the independent study project(s), (3) the quality of the Oral Presentation (4) the evaluations of departmental faculty members who have supervised these activities.

Chemistry

• The honors program in chemistry is designed for outstanding students enrolled in the general program leading to the B.S. degree, Chemistry Emphasis, or Chemical Biology Emphasis, or Forensic Chemistry Emphasis. Students may apply for admission to the honors program by submitting a letter of request to the department chair no later than April 15th of the sophomore year (for admissions in the fall) or November 15th of the junior year (for admission in the spring). Junior transfers may apply at the time of their admission to the University. Primary emphasis will be placed on indications of academic ability and maturity sufficient for applicants to pursue with distinction a program involving independent research.

• The minimum requirements for admission include: (1) Completion of A CHM 120 (or 130 or T CHM 130), 121 (or 131 or T CHM 131), 124, 125, 220, 221, 222, 223, 226 and 227 or their equivalents; (2) An overall grade point average of 3.25; (3) A grade point average of 3.50 in chemistry courses required for the major; and (4) Written recommendations from at least three faculty members, one of whom, preferably should be from outside the Department of Chemistry.

• Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall and of 3.50 in chemistry courses taken to satisfy major requirements during the junior and senior years. The progress of participants in the honors program will be reviewed at the end of junior year by the student’s adviser and the Departmental Undergraduate Committee. Students not meeting academic and independent research standards at that time may be precluded from continuing in the program during their senior year. These students may, of course, continue as majors.

• Students may select from the following three emphases or tracks.

• Honors B.S. Chemistry, Chemistry Emphasis 71 credits total as follows: in addition to the 20 credits listed above and mathematics and physics requirements listed for the general B.S. Chemistry program, with Chemistry Emphasis, A CHM 342 or 442, 350, 351, 352Z, 417, 420, and 3 credits of advanced chemistry at the 400 level, not including research courses (64 credits); 3 credits of A CHM 426 (Undergraduate Research); and 4 credits of A CHM 427 (Honors Undergraduate Research). Student independent research must include an honors research project, culminating with a written honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student’s last semester.
Honors B.S. Chemistry, Chemical Biology Emphasis: 76 credits total as follows: 72 credits as outlined in the general B.S. Chemistry program, with Chemical Biology Emphasis, with the exception A CHM 417 is replaced with A CHM 426 (Undergraduate Research); and 4 credits of A CHM 427 (Honors Undergraduate Research). The independent study must include an honors research project, culminating with a written honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student’s last semester.

Honors B.S. Chemistry, Forensic Chemistry Emphasis: 79 credits total as follows: 72 credits as outlined in B.S. Chemistry with Forensic Chemistry emphasis; 3 credits of A CHM 428 (Forensic Chemistry Research); and 4 credits of A CHM 427 (Honors Undergraduate Research). The independent study must include an honors research project, culminating with a written honors thesis and departmental seminar by the end of the student's last semester.

After completion of the requirements above, the records of the candidates will be reviewed by the Departmental Undergraduate Committee. After consideration of overall academic record, performance and accomplishments in the research project, the quality of the Honors Seminar and Thesis, and the evaluations of departmental faculty members who have supervised these activities, a recommendation for or against a degree “with honors in chemistry” will be made by the committee to the departmental faculty. The final recommendation will be made by the departmental faculty and transmitted to the departmental chair.

Chinese Studies Majors

- Students with 3.50 grade point average in the Chinese Studies major are eligible for its Honors Program. In addition to completing the regular requirements for the major, students in the Honors Program complete a further six credits of A EAS 495, Colloquium in East Asian Studies.

- At the beginning of the fall semester (preferably of the senior year), students will submit their honors proposals to the faculty. If the faculty approves a proposal, the student will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits), which consists of directed readings and conferences involving appropriate members of the faculty. The project will be evaluated by the project adviser at the end of the fall semester and if the student is making appropriate progress, they will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits) again in the spring semester. The project will be formally evaluated by the Department Honors Committee no later than the mid-term point in the second semester of the senior year. The final version of the project must be submitted by the last day of classes during the second semester of the senior year.

Computer Science/ Computer Science & Applied Mathematics

- **Eligibility**: To be eligible for admission to the honors program in Computer Science, a student must have a specific prospective faculty honors supervisor who conveys to the Department a statement of permission and agreement to engage in a specific research specialization area. Prior to admission the student must first have declared one of the Bachelor of Science major programs in Computer Science; must have completed the following courses with a GPA of at least 3.50: I CSI/I CEN 201 (or AP), I CSI/I CEN 210, I CSI/I CEN 213, (or a 5 in the CS-AP AB exam), I CSI/I CEN 333, and preferably
A MAT 118 and 119 although A MAT 111 or 112, and 113 are acceptable; and have an overall GPA of at least 3.25. Prospective honors students must identify and consult a prospective supervisor prior to honors admission, and should request admission during the semester when they will complete the above courses so admission may be determined when all the required grades are in and the proposed area is evaluated.

- **Requirements:**
  - All the requirements for the chosen Bachelor of Science program must be completed with one or more elective courses chosen in consultation with the faculty to develop rigorous mastery in a disciplinary specialization. These courses may be either part of or in addition to the major, a minor, a second major, or graduate requirements. Admitted departmental honors students in the 73 credit Bachelor of Science Combined Major and Minor in Computer Science may use I CSI 487 for one of the three Computer Science electives in that program. Students in the 66 credit Computer Science and Applied Mathematics program must take its two electives in addition to I CSI 487.
  - Three credits of Honors Seminar (I CSI 487): as part of this course, students will do independent study in preparation for research or innovative development projects under the supervision of a faculty member, and to present a colloquium on the topic. See the catalog description.
  - At least three credits of honors or graduate project work (I CSI 488Z and/or I CSI 68x and/or I CSI 699): students will be required to pursue research or innovative development under the supervision of a faculty member and submit a final report describing their original work and its background. The courses necessarily have significant writing components. The student will be required to present a public seminar on project results. See the catalog descriptions.
  - A GPA of at least 3.50 in the Computer Science courses that go towards the B.S. major must be maintained to continue in the honors program and graduate with an honors major. The faculty supervisor must also certify to the department that the student completed and presented the project results satisfactorily.

**Criminal Justice**

- **Honors Program Curriculum**
  The major of Criminal Justice with Honors is a 36 credit program.
  - Students who have been admitted to the program may elect to begin taking courses that will be applied to the required 12 honors credits of coursework that will count toward the electives requirement of the major.
  - Select one of the following Advanced Theory course options:
    - A writing-intensive course with a special honors section – OR –
    - One of the two honors theory courses (RCRJ 507 or RCRJ 540) – OR –
    - Other courses proposed and approved by the faculty.
  - All students in the cohort will take a three-credit “Great Ideas in Criminal Justice” course (RCRJ 490). This course will include a series of lectures by faculty members in the School of Criminal Justice. The course will provide the incoming honors students with the opportunity to meet faculty and to learn about the research being conducted in the School.
Students will select either the Independent Senior Thesis (RCRJ 482/492) or the Topical Senior Research (RCRJ 481/491) track of the Honors Program. Each track will be six credits over two semesters.

Students in both tracks will complete a thesis by April 15 of the senior year. This thesis will be reviewed by the committee created for this purpose. In order to graduate with honors in the major, the student's thesis project must be approved.

**Admission to the Criminal Justice Honors Program**

Students can apply to the Honors Program in the second semester of the sophomore year or the first semester of the junior year. Minimum requirements for admission include Criminal Justice as a declared first major, an overall GPA not lower than 3.25, and a Criminal Justice GPA not lower than 3.50. Additionally, to remain in the Honors Program, all honors students must maintain a 3.50 GPA in the major.

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**Documentary Studies**

- **Honors Curriculum Admission**

  Majors should discuss admission to the Honors Curriculum with the Documentary Studies Director at any time during their first or second year or at the beginning of their third year. Transfer students should apply upon their admission to the University. The requirements for admission include:
  - Overall cumulative grade point average of 3.25;
  - Completion of at least 12 credits required for the Documentary Studies major;
  - A grade point average of 3.50 in courses required for the Documentary Studies major.

**East Asian Studies Majors**

- Students with 3.50 grade point average in one of the department’s majors are eligible for its Honors Program. In addition to completing the regular requirements for the major in Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies, or Japanese Studies, students in the Honors Program complete a further six credits of A EAS 495, Colloquium in East Asian Studies.
- At the beginning of the fall semester (preferably of the senior year), students will submit their honors proposals to the faculty. If the faculty approves a proposal, the student will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits), which consists of directed readings and conferences involving appropriate members of the faculty. The project will be evaluated by the project adviser at the end of the fall semester and if the student is making appropriate progress, they will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits) again in the spring semester. The project will be formally evaluated by the Department Honors Committee no later than the mid-term point in the second semester of the senior year. The final version of the project must be submitted by the last day of classes during the second semester of the senior year.

**Economics**

- The honors program is designed to provide capable and motivated students with a greater understanding of economics and to better prepare students for graduate and professional schools.
- Students may apply to the honors program after completing any two of A Eco 300, 301, and 320. To be accepted and to complete the program, the student must have an average
of at least 3.40 in all courses applicable to the major and 3.25 in all courses taken at the University. Interested students should see the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies even before completing the required courses, for advice on choosing elective courses and on meeting the other requirements of the honors program.

- The honors student must complete all requirements of the B.S. program in economics, including A Eco 499Z (the Senior Honors Research Seminar) as part of the program. In addition, the honors student must submit a senior honors thesis acceptable to the Economics Honors Committee.

- A plan for the senior honors thesis normally arises from consultation with faculty concerning a suitable topic and method of inquiry. The student, with advice and consent of the Economics Honors Committee, will choose a faculty adviser who will assist the student in completing the thesis. Work on the thesis may begin in the junior year, but it must be completed while the student is enrolled in A Eco 499Z.

- If all requirements stated above are met, the department will recommend that the student be awarded the B.S. degree with honors in economics.

- To apply to the Honors Program in Economics, please complete the form below and email it to Prof. Pinka Chatterji at pchatterji@albany.edu.

**English**

- The honors program in English is designed to promote intellectual exchange and community among able English majors and to prepare them to do independent work. Students who successfully complete the program earn an Honors Certificate in English and, if they meet University GPA requirements, are eligible for a nomination to graduate from the University with "Honors in English."

- Admission to the honors program is selective, based primarily on the evaluation of a critical writing sample and secondarily on instructor recommendations. Only declared English majors or English double majors are eligible to apply. One normally applies in the spring semester of sophomore year, but students can apply through the spring semester of junior year. Transfer students may apply upon acceptance to the University and declaration of the English major. An applicant is recommended to have a 3.25 cumulative GPA and a 3.50 GPA in the English major. When applying, students should have completed already, or will complete by the end of that semester, 12 credits that count toward the English major, including A ENG 205Z and A ENG 210. A ENG 305V and/or A ENG 310 also are recommended. Those who plan to write a creative thesis should have taken A ENG 302W (or 302Z) and/or A ENG 402Z. Alternately, they should be involved with an on-campus writing community, such as editing a student-run creative writing magazine or interning at a professional literary or cultural magazine sponsored by the English Department or elsewhere at the University. They also are encouraged to submit, in addition to a critical essay, a short creative writing sample.

- Faculty members on the departmental Honors Committee review applications and decide on admissions. When appropriate for individual cases, they may waive any of the above entry requirements and recommendations.

- While students are registered for the English honors sequence courses, the Honors Director monitors their progress through regular meetings with the students and, during the thesis year, through communications with each student’s project advisor. A student can be disallowed from continuing in the program if the Honors Director and/or the
student’s thesis advisor judge his or her performance in A ENG 399Z and/or A ENG 498 to fall short of the program’s expectations. Similarly, if a student’s performance in his or her other English courses suffers, he or she might be dismissed from the program so as to be able to remediate the situation and be better able to graduate successfully. Any student who leaves or is dismissed from the honors program is held responsible for the English major requirements.

- The English faculty member supervising the independent project evaluates the honors thesis, usually researched and written during the senior year. A second reader from the English Department or from another academic unit at the University supplies additional guidance and/or feedback about the thesis in the late stages of its development. Conferring with the Honors Director, the project advisor and second reader assign a letter grade (A-E) for A ENG 499 that evaluates the end product of the thesis research, while also considering other variables in the year-long project, such as: the student’s intellectual development, the student’s self-motivated performance in an independent study scenario, the student’s regular and timely consultation with supervisors, and the student’s public presentations or publication of project-related research and writing. Upon students' completion of program requirements, the Honors Committee recommends eligible candidates for a BA degree with “Honors in English.”

**Degree Requirements for Honors in English (37 credits)**
- 12 credits from major core courses: A ENG 205Z, 210, 305V, 310
- 10 credits from required courses: A ENG 399Z*, 498, 499
- 6 credits from the following literature surveys: A ENG 261, 291, 292, 295, or 297
- 3 credits from 200 to 400 level courses**
- 6 credits from 300 to 400 level courses

- * The courses must be taken in sequence. If a student is unable to take A ENG 399Z because she or he is accepted to the program in spring of junior year or because she or he studied abroad during that semester, the following option is available: With advisement from the Honors Director and the thesis advisor, during the thesis-writing year an English Honors student can substitute A ENG 399Z with a 500- or 600-level course relevant to his or her project.

- ** An English Honors student may count 3 credits of approved coursework from other departments specified in the list below toward the 200- to 400-level major elective requirement.

- To graduate with “Honors in English” a student must complete the program course sequence (or approved substitutions), as well as conclude his or her undergraduate studies with a minimum grade point average of 3.50 in the English major and a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA. If one graduates with the distinction of “Honors in English,” and completes the degree requirements specified above, the regular requirements of the English major are waived. If a student does not meet mandated GPA minimums at the time of graduation, he or she is responsible for the usual English major requirements but can count the honors sequence courses toward elective credits in the English major.

**Environmental Science**

- Students who have by the end of their fourth semester attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and a grade point average of at least 3.50 in courses required of the major in environmental science may apply to the department chair for the program
leading to a B.S. degree with honors in environmental science. Applications must be submitted before the end of the first semester of the student’s junior year and must be accompanied by letters of recommendation from at least two faculty members.

- To be admitted to the program, a student must have completed A ATM 210, A BIO 120, A CHM 120 or 130 or T CHM 130, A CHM 121 or 131 or T CHM 131, A GEO 221, A PHY 140 or 141 or T PHY 141, and A MAT 111 or 112 or 118 or T MAT 118. These requirements may be altered, upon request, for qualified transfer students. At the end of the junior year, the student’s program will be reviewed by the Honors Committee to see if satisfactory progress is being made.

- To be eligible for a degree with honors, students must complete a minimum of 83-84 credits specified as follows: (1) the general program B.S. with one of four specializations; (2) A MAT 113 or 119 or T MAT 119 and an additional elective in the selected specialization at the 300-level or higher; and (3) 6 credits of A ENV 498 taken over at least two semesters culminating in a significant undergraduate thesis and an honors seminar in the student’s final semester. Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall and 3.50 in the major coursework during the junior and senior years.

- Upon completion of the requirements, the honors committee will make its recommendation to the faculty to grant the degree with honors in environmental science based upon the candidate’s (1) academic record, (2) research project report, (3) honors seminar, and (4) faculty recommendations.

**Financial Analyst**

The Financial Analysis Honors concentration puts superior, motivated students like you on the path to careers at top firms in the financial industry.

- Financial analysts…
  - understand financial statements, and use them to evaluate the strength of organizations.
  - sift through information to identify what is most relevant.
  - develop models to estimate the fundamental value of a firm.
  - apply concepts of accounting, economics, statistics, and psychology.
  - make extensive use of modeling tools such as Excel and Bloomberg.
  - The Financial Analyst Honors Program is the only honors program in the School of Business.
  - Outstanding performance in course work is a basic requirement, and you must also demonstrate a passion for finance, attention to detail, strong ethics, and professionalism.

- Though the Financial Analysis Honors Program is not intended as a CFA® prep course, most graduates are able to pass the Level I examination with modest additional effort.

**Focused Preparation for Finance Careers**

- You will not only complete rigorous finance courses, but will share a fully integrated experience with a small group of highly motivated students with grade point averages of 3.5 or better.
- Focused course work and the following additional opportunities position you to excel.
- Frequent contact with Wall Street professionals and leading scholars.
Individual finance-focused mentor-ing and career assistance with resumes, interviews, internships, and the job search.

Management of an actual stock portfolio with a team of students, alumni, and faculty through the UASBIG student investment group.

Development of a senior thesis and presentation to faculty and alumni.

Certification in using the Bloomberg terminal for equity and fixed-income analysis.

Completion for scholarships to fund the CFA level I exam, and for a variety of awards.

Participation in the student chapter of the New York Society of Securities Analysts (NYSSA).

Learn more details on the distinctive program features that make this program one of the best ways to enhance your undergraduate business degree and give you an edge in this competitive career.

If you are interested in learning more about how the Financial Analyst Honors Program has jump-started the careers of program alumni, look at the placement results for others who have participated in outstanding undergraduate business degree program.

Geography

The department’s honors program in geography is intended to recognize the academic excellence of its best students, to give them the opportunity to work more closely with the faculty, and to enhance their understanding of geographical theory and research. Students may apply for admission to the program during their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year. To gain admission, students must have formally declared a major in geography and completed at least 12 credits of course work in the department. In addition, at the time of admission students must have an overall grade point average of at least 3.25, and of 3.50 in geography.

Students must complete a minimum of 42 credits as follows:

1. All the major requirements listed above, except that the Senior Honors Thesis will satisfy the capstone requirement.
2. At least 6 credits should be taken in a cognate field, as advised.
3. 6 credits of Senior Honors Thesis, A GOG 499. During this two-semester sequence, the student will prepare an honors thesis based on original research, under the supervision of a member of the department. A written proposal describing the project must be approved by the advisor and the departmental Honors Committee by the beginning of the student’s senior year. The thesis will be submitted for formal evaluation in the spring semester of the student’s senior year, and must be approved by both the advisor and the Honors Committee.
4. The departmental Honors Committee will review each student’s progress at the end of each semester. Upon completion of all honors program requirements with a grade point average of 3.50 in geography and 3.25 overall, students will be recommended by the Honors Committee for graduation with Honors in Geography, and will be honored at the departmental recognition ceremony in May.

History

Each spring semester the Department of History admits qualified students into the honors program in history. The purpose of the honors program is to provide well-qualified
students with close contact with faculty and intensive training in historical research and writing.

- Students may be admitted to the program in the spring semester of their junior year after formally declaring a major in history. To be admitted, students must have completed 15 credits of course work in history (at least 6 of these credits must be at or above the 300 level and must have been earned at the University at Albany). In addition, students must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 overall and an average in history of 3.50. Interested students should contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of History for more information on the application process. Completed applications should be submitted no later than March 1st of the junior year.

- Students admitted to the honors program are required to complete a minimum of 36 credits in history, fulfilling all the “Requirements for the Major” listed above. Within the 36 credits, the student must complete the three honors courses: A HIS 495Z, 496Z, and 498. Credits from A HIS 495Z and 498 can be counted toward the concentration most appropriate to the subject of the student’s honors thesis (“United States”, “European”, or “World History”). Credits from A HIS 496Z replace the department’s capstone course, A HIS 489Z, for students who complete the honors program. Students complete the honors courses as follows:
  - A HIS 498, Honors' Independent Research and Writing, 4 credits, taken during the fall of the student’s senior year under the supervision of a thesis adviser secured by the student.
  - A HIS 495Z (fall semester) and 496Z (spring semester), Senior Honors Thesis Seminar, 4 credits each. This seminar will meet throughout the year under the supervision of a department faculty member and will offer students a small seminar format for learning about historical research and writing, as well as for sharing and critiquing their own work and that of others. By the end of the year each student will, in conjunction with this seminar, produce a thesis of 12,000 to 15,000 words based on original research.
  - Department faculty members will evaluate the students’ progress at the end of the spring semester senior year. Students will be judged eligible for graduation “with honors in history” based on the quality of their thesis as well as the satisfactory completion of all other curricular requirements with a grade point average of at least a 3.50 in history and 3.25 overall. Students selected to graduate “with honors in history” will be honored formally at the departmental graduation ceremony in May.

Japanese Studies Majors

- Students with 3.50 grade point average in the Japanese Studies major are eligible for its Honors Program. In addition to completing the regular requirements for the major, students in the Honors Program complete a further six credits of A EAS 495, Colloquium in East Asian Studies.

- At the beginning of the fall semester (preferably of the senior year), students will submit their honors proposals to the faculty. If the faculty approves a proposal, the student will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits), which consists of directed readings and conferences involving appropriate members of the faculty. The project will be evaluated by the project adviser at the end of the fall semester and if the student is making appropriate progress, they will be permitted to enroll in A EAS 495 (3 credits) again in the spring semester. The project will be formally evaluated by the Department Honors Committee no later than the mid-term point in the second semester of the senior year. The
final version of the project must be submitted by the last day of classes during the second semester of the senior year.

**Journalism**

- Journalism majors who wish to graduate with Honors in Journalism should contact Professor Thomas Bass, the Journalism Program's Honors Director. To be admitted to the Journalism Honors Program, a student must: (a) be a declared Journalism major; (b) have completed 12 credits in A JRL courses; (c) have a minimum 3.25 overall GPA and a minimum 3.50 GPA in Journalism; (d) submit an application essay.
- In addition, the student is required, as part of his/her courses for completing the Journalism major, to choose one course from the Contextual courses menu from the following: A JRL 340 Global Perspectives on the News; A JRL 330 History of Journalism in the United States; A JRL 420 Media in the Digital Age; or A JRL 480 Public Affairs Journalism. The student must earn at least an A- in the chosen course. Senior honors students will then complete A JRL 499 Senior Honors Project. The Honors sequence requires 39 credits.

**Latin America, Caribbean and US Latino Studies**

- The Department of Latin American, Caribbean, & U.S. Latino Studies Honors Program is a 36-credit undergraduate career distinction that consists of at least 12 credits of coursework designed to enhance and intensify the undergraduate experience.
- To be admitted into the LACS Honors Program, each student must meet the following requirements: the student must be a LACS major who has already completed at least 12 credits of coursework; the student must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25; the student must have a GPA of 3.50 in the major; both the overall and major GPAs must be maintained until graduation in order to graduate with honors.
- Students admitted to the Honors Program are required to complete a minimum of 36 credits in LACS courses, fulfilling all the “Requirements for the Major” listed above. Within the 36 credits, the student in the LACS Honors Program completes a junior or senior level independent honors project (ALCS 497, “Independent Study”) under the direction of the LACS Honors Committee, which is selected by the Chair, in consultation with a Faculty Director, chosen by the student.
- In addition to maintaining an overall GPA of at least 3.25 and a 3.50 in the major each student enrolled in the LACS Honors Program will need the following 12-credits that are designed to enhance and intensify the undergraduate experience: A LCS 300 (3 credits) that includes an extra assignment linked to the project the student is completing for A LCS 497; A LCS 411, 412, or 413 (3 credits) that includes an extra assignment linked to the project the student is completing for A LCS 497; A LCS 497 (6 credits) which is the LACS Honors Project (e.g. research paper, etc.) that is designed in consultation with the LACS Honors Committee and Faculty Director.
Linguistics

Students who have completed 12 or more credits of A LIN courses may apply to the program by letter to the director of the Program in Linguistics and Cognitive Science. The requirements are as follows:

- The major GPA must be at least 3.50, and the overall GPA must be at least 3.25.
- Students are required to take 39 credits. In addition to satisfying all the linguistics major requirements, the 39 credits must include 12 credits of 400 level A LIN courses. Of these 12 credits, seven must come from A LIN 429, Field Methods in Anthropological Linguistics (4 credits) and A LIN 423, Language Structures (3 credits), which constitute a seven credit sequence involving original research projects. Three credits must come from A LIN 495 Honors Thesis (described below). The remaining credits can come from any 400 level A LIN course.
- Students must take A LIN 495 Honors Thesis in which they write a major research paper. The paper can be based on new research or can be a major revision of a paper written for a previous A LIN class or independent study. This course should be taken during the final semester of the student’s senior year, under the supervision of an appropriate member of the A LIN faculty. All students in A LIN 495 will make a public oral presentation of their research before submitting the final written version.

Mathematics

- The honors program is designed for the talented and committed student of mathematics in either the B.A. or the B.S. major. Successful completion of the program is excellent preparation for graduate work in mathematics or a mathematics-related discipline.
- At the lower division level, the Department offers Honors Calculus II (A MAT 119), III (A MAT 218), and Honors Linear Algebra, A MAT 222. A strong student may begin in whichever of these courses is appropriate based on the student’s previous coursework in calculus.
- A student may be admitted formally to the Department’s honors program at any time after the sophomore year, and then will be formally advised by the Director of the Honors Program. However, any student who is interested in the program should see the Director of the Honors Program as early as possible for informal advisement. To be admitted, the applicant must have an academic average in all University courses of at least 3.30, and an academic average in all mathematics courses of at least 3.40.
- In addition to the lower division core, the requirements for graduation with honors in mathematics include:
  - A MAT 482 (Senior Seminar), A MAT 497 (Independent Study) or A MAT 499 (Undergraduate Thesis).
  - An acceptable honors thesis presented in a public venue.
  - An academic average of at least 3.30 in all University courses and at least 3.40 in all mathematics courses numbered 400 or above.
- For the B.S., 6 credits in Computer Science from I CSI 101, I CSI/I CEN 201, I CSI 203, I CSI 205, I CSI/I CEN 213 and a minor in atmospheric science, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, electronics, informatics, or physics.

**Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program**

- Honors students will take a structured sequence of coursework focusing upon the main areas of study offered in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies curriculum.
- **Degree Requirements:** Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with a faculty-initiated concentration in Medieval and Renaissance Studies - Honors Curriculum (36 credits)
- **General Program B.A.:** A minimum of 36 credits: 3 credits in Art History, 3 credits in English, 3 credits in History, 18 credits in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 9 honors credits as advised by the Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
  - **Art History courses:** 3 credits
    - A ARH 331 Monks, Monarchs, and Medieval Art
    - A ARH 342 Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture: 1450-1600
  - **English courses:** 3 credits
    - A ENG 330 Literature of the Middle Ages
    - A ENG 331 Literature of the Earlier Renaissance
    - A ENG 332 Literature of the Later Renaissance
  - **History courses:** 3 credits
    - A HIS 235 Early and Medieval Christianity
    - A HIS 336 History of the Early Middle Ages
    - A HIS 337 The High Middle Ages
    - A HIS 338 The Italian Renaissance, 1300-1530
    - A HIS 339 Renaissance and Reformation in 16th Century Europe
    - A HIS 346 The History of England I
- **Medieval and Renaissance Studies electives:** 18 credits
  - **Art History**
    - A ARH 230 The Art of Medieval Knighthood
    - A ARH 303 Artistic Encounters in the Early Medieval World
    - A ARH 331 Monks, Monarchs, and Medieval Art
    - A ARH 332 Gothic Art and Architecture
    - A ARH 342 Italian Renaissance Art and Architecture: 1450-1600
    - A ARH 442 Early Painting of the Netherlands
    - A ARH 499Y Research Seminar in Art History
  - **East Asian**
    - A EAC/A HIS 471 Change in Medieval China
  - **English**
    - A ENG 330 Literature of the Middle Ages
    - A ENG 331 Literature of the Earlier Renaissance
    - A ENG 332 Literature of the Later Renaissance
    - A ENG 341 Chaucer
    - A ENG 342 Study of an Author or Authors before the Mid-18th Century
    - A ENG 346 Studies in Shakespeare (replaces A ENG 344 and 345)
○ A ENG 348 Milton
○ A ENG/A WSS 362 Critical Approaches to Gender and Sexuality in Literature (when appropriate; approval required)
○ A ENG/A WSS 368 Women Writers (when appropriate; approval required)
○ A ENG 411 Topics in British Literature and Culture (when appropriate; approval required)

○ French
○ A FRE 202 French Literature (when appropriate; approval required)
○ A FRE 455 Life and Letters (when appropriate; approval required; taught in French)

○ History
○ A HIS 235 Early and Medieval Christianity
○ A HIS 336 History of the Early Middle Ages
○ A HIS 337 The High Middle Ages
○ A HIS 338 The Italian Renaissance, 1300-1530
○ A HIS 339 Renaissance and Reformation in 16th Century Europe
○ A HIS 346 The History of England I
○ A HIS 391 Advanced Topics in European History
○ A HIS 463 The Byzantine Empire, 300-1453

○ Italian
○ A ITA 315 Italian Civilization: From the Etruscans to Galileo
○ A ITA 441 Women, Men, Love, and Politics of the Italian Renaissance

○ Music
○ A MUS 230 Music History I
○ A MUS 287 University Chamber Singers (approval required)

○ Philosophy
○ A PHI 311 History of Medieval Philosophy
○ A PHI 312 17th and 18th Century Philosophy

○ Spanish
○ A SPN 311 Hispanic Literature through the Golden Age
○ A SPN 482 Cervantes

○ Departmental Offerings
○ A MRS 298 Topics in Medieval and Renaissance Studies
○ A MRS 398 Topics in Medieval and Renaissance Studies
○ A MRS 497 Independent Study and Research in Medieval and Renaissance Studies

● Honors courses: 9 credits as advised
● The research project is the focus of the Honors Program and must draw upon at least two of the fields offered in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. In addition, it must have at least two of the following features: use of primary resources; research conducted in a language other than English; production of an annotated bibliography to develop a historiographic analysis. In the final semester of her or his senior year, the student will present the project formally to an Honors Committee composed of selected members of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies faculty. The student will also produce
a major paper on the research project, which will be evaluated by the project’s faculty supervisor and another reader from one of the disciplines represented in the project.

- Selection: The student should have declared the Interdisciplinary Studies major with a faculty-initiated concentration in Medieval and Renaissance Studies and completed at least 12 credits in the major. Her or his overall grade point average must be at least 3.25, with a grade point average of at least 3.50 in courses for the major. To be considered, interested students should submit a letter of intent to the director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Students may apply beginning in the spring semester of the sophomore year through April of the junior year.

**Philosophy**

- The purpose of the honors program is to provide well-qualified students with close contact with faculty and fuller training in philosophical research and writing than are normally possible.
- Students may be admitted in the second semester of their sophomore year or during their junior year. To be admitted, students must have completed 12 credits of course work from the Department of Philosophy. In addition, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 overall and 3.50 in philosophy. Students must submit evidence of their written work, preferably a paper written for a philosophy course. A departmental honors committee administers the program, admitting students and evaluating their work.
- Students are required to complete a minimum of 42 credits. They must fulfill all regular requirements for the major, and in addition, take at least two 500 level courses in philosophy (8 credits), and A PHI 498, Honors Thesis (4 credits). The honors thesis is a 20–30 page essay, written in the senior year, under the supervision of a faculty member in the department, and acceptable to the departmental Honors Committee.
- Students are graduated “with honors in philosophy” upon satisfactory completion of the curricular requirements with a grade point average of 3.50 in philosophy and a minimum 3.25 overall.

**Physics**

- The honors program in physics is designed for outstanding students.
- Students may apply for admission to the honors program by submitting a letter of request to the department chair no later than April 15 of the sophomore year (for admission in the fall) or November 15 of the junior year (for admission in the spring). Junior transfers may apply at the time of their admission to the University. Primary emphasis will be placed on indications of academic ability and maturity sufficient for applicants to pursue with distinction a program involving independent research.
- The minimum requirements for admission are:
  - Completion of A PHY 140 or 141, 150 or 151, 240 or 241, 250 or their equivalents;
  - An overall grade point average of 3.30;
  - A grade point average of 3.60 in physics courses required for the major;
  - Written recommendations from at least three faculty members, one of whom, preferably, should be from outside the Department of Physics.
• Students in the program must maintain both a minimum grade point average of 3.30 overall and of 3.60 in physics courses taken to satisfy major requirements during the junior and senior years.

• Students in the honors program are required to complete a minimum of 72 credits as follows: the 66 credits specified for the general program in physics; 3 credits of Honors Seminar in Physics (A PHY 498); and 3 credits of Research and/or Independent Study in Physics (A PHY 497). The independent study must include an honors research project culminating in a written report by the end of the student’s last semester.

• A Department Honors Committee will recommend an honors degree to the department faculty for its approval.

Political Science

• This program is designed to provide serious students of politics with the opportunity for a special educational experience in small seminars where they can develop their writing, discussion, and analytical skills.

• Majors may apply for admission to the Director of the Honors Program at the end of the sophomore year, or for junior transfers, upon admission to the University.

• The requirements for admission include: an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.50, and a 3.70 in political science courses; and completion of 12 credits in political science (including, normally, R POS 101, 102, and 103) before beginning the program.

• Honors Program Requirements
  o The Honors Program requires 16 credits of honors work. All students beginning the Honors Program will take Great Ideas in Political Science (R POS 496Z). This seminar is taught each fall and only honors students may enroll.
  o Students in the honors program must take two 4 credit honors versions of existing 300 level courses (R POS 300 level + 1 credit R POS 300). In addition to attending classes and doing the same assignments as the other students in the course, they will earn the additional fourth credit through a tutorial with the faculty member teaching the course that will include extra reading and writing assignments. Students in the honors program will have the option of capping their studies with either a 4 credit honors thesis (R POS 499Z) written under the supervision of a faculty member or a 4 credit version of an existing 400 level course in which the honors student will undertake a major writing project (R POS 400 level + 1 credit R POS 400).
  o Honors students will need to have an upper-division area of concentration in American Politics, Global Politics, Public Law, or Political Theory. The two 300 level honors courses and the 400 level honors course or honors thesis can be used to fulfill this requirement. Honors students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.25 overall and 3.50 in political science to continue in the program in the senior year and to graduate with honors.

Psychology

• A psychology major, or double major with psychology listed first, may file an application for admission with the Honors Committee as early as the second semester of the sophomore year or as soon as the minimum requirements for admission to the program
The minimum requirements for admission include completion of A PSY 101 or 102, 210 and 211. If the student has not been able to complete A PSY 211 by the first semester of the junior year, it is possible to obtain permission to take A PSY 211 concurrently with the Honors Seminar. A grade point average of 3.30 or higher overall for all course work taken for graduation credit at the University is required, as is a 3.50 grade point average or higher for psychology courses applicable toward the major.

Honors students must complete a total of 48 credits in psychology. Of these credits, 36 are the same as required of all majors and the remaining 12 credits are listed below.

- Honors majors must complete their additional 12 credits by completing A PSY 310 (3 credits), 399 (3 credits), and 499 (6 credits). Furthermore, students must submit a senior honors thesis acceptable to the research sponsor and the Honors Committee.
- The program commences with the Honors Seminar (A PSY 399) in the fall semester of the junior year. A PSY 211 must be taken at this time if it has not already been completed.
- The seminar introduces the student to (advanced) issues of scientific method and experimental design. As soon as the student has a general idea for the research project, he or she is encouraged to discuss the project with a potential research sponsor, especially as regards feasibility. By the end of the seminar course, the student should be conversant with a problem area, have arranged a research sponsor and be ready to submit a research proposal. The Honors student will conduct the research in two project courses (A PSY 499) during the second semester of the junior and the first semester of the senior year.

The Honors Thesis written by the end of the second project course will consist of a review of the literature, the hypothesis to be tested, an experimental design (from the research proposal), data collected, any statistical analysis, and a discussion.

Students in the Honors Program are required to maintain an overall grade point average of 3.30 or higher during the junior and senior years and an overall grade point average of 3.50 or higher for all psychology courses applicable toward the major. The work of each candidate in the honors program will be reviewed at the completion of the junior year by the Departmental Honors Committee.

Students not meeting the above-stated standards at that time may be precluded from continuing in the program for the senior year. Students who remain below the stated standards throughout their senior year will not be eligible for a degree with Honors.

After completion of the above requirements, the records of the candidate will be reviewed by the Departmental Honors Committee who shall recommend, to the department, candidates for the degree with honors in psychology.

**Public Policy & Management**

- The Honors Program in Public Policy and Management is a combined major and minor program requiring a minimum of 54 credits, including the completion of an honors thesis.

**Coursework:** students in the honors program must complete the same coursework requirements as specified for the non-honors major.

**Thesis:** each student must complete a 30 to 40 page honors thesis. This paper should involve original research on a topic related to public policy. It should have a clearly defined thesis statement, a review of the existing literature on the chosen topic, original
evidence offered to support the thesis, consideration of alternative rival hypothesis, and a conclusion of the consequence for public policy research of these findings. The paper is to be created in conjunction with a faculty mentor approved by the Director of the Undergraduate Public Policy and Management program (and the paper may be co-authored with the chosen faculty mentor). The paper is to be submitted to the Director of the Undergraduate Public Policy and Management program.

- Completion of the thesis requires enrolling in two research courses, RPAD 494 and RPAD 496, in which the student works one-on-one with a faculty advisor to conduct the required research and write the thesis. RPAD 494 may be counted towards the Area of Management and Politics, and RPAD 496 may be counted towards the Area of Quantitative Methods and Policy Analysis.
- Students are encouraged to identify their thesis question and advisor before the end of their junior year.

**Rhetoric & Communications**

- The Honors Program for Communication majors is designed to provide opportunities for the most talented and well-motivated students to work closely with each other and with the faculty.
- You may apply for admission at any point during a semester and may reapply if rejected after the close of that semester or thereafter. Decisions of the Honors Committee on admission are final and not subject to review or appeal.
- Here are the two criteria to be admitted to the Honors program:
  - You need to be a major in the department with a 3.50 average in the required course for admission to the major.
  - You must have completed at least two full-time semesters of college study at Albany, with an overall average of at least 3.50, or the equivalent in the case of transfer students.
  - You can also be admitted to the program on a provisional basis if you have fewer than 12 credits in communication. Upon completion of 12 credits, your admission will be finalized.
- Once you meet these requirements and want to be admitted to the Honors Program, contact the director of the Honors Program, Dr. Alyssa C. Morey (SS 333). She will then ask you to write a letter in which you will officially apply for admission to the program.
- If you are accepted in the Honors Program, you will be required to complete a minimum of 36 credits, meeting all requirements of the major, except for a special requirement among courses at the 300 level or above. This special requirement functions as follows: instead of 6 credits of electives at the 300 level or above, you will have to complete one of the two options:
  - An Honors Project for 6 credits (A COM 499)
  - A Senior Honors Project for 3 credits (A COM 499) plus 3 credits in a graduate course in communication (for undergraduate credit) with approval of the undergraduate director.
- The Honors Project or the Senior Honors Project has to be completed under the supervision of a faculty member in the department. While students can contact by themselves the faculty member with whom they want to complete one of these two projects, the final selection must be approved by the director of the Honors Program.
- Note that the Honors Committee will put students on program probation at the end of any semester in which their cumulative GPA in the major falls below 3.50 or their term GPA that semester is below 3.30.
- Students will be dismissed from the program if they are placed on program probation in two consecutive semesters, or if they receive a grade below B in A COM 499. Students dismissed from the program cannot be readmitted unless the grades on which dismissal is based were in error and are officially changed.
- After completion of the requirements above, the records of candidates will be reviewed by the Departmental Honors Committee, who shall recommend to the department candidates for the degree with honors in rhetoric and communication.

**Spanish**

- The Honors Program in Spanish is designed to promote opportunities for advanced work to highly motivated, mature undergraduate majors and prepare them to do independent work. Students may apply for admission to the Honors Program no earlier than the beginning of the second semester of their sophomore year, and no later than the end of the second semester of their junior year. To gain admission to the Program students must have formally declared a major in Spanish and have completed at least 12 credits toward their major. In addition, they must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25, and 3.50 in their major, both of which must be maintained in order to graduate with honors.
- Students must complete the 36 credits required for the major as well as a 4 credit Honors Thesis (A SPN 499) to be done the semester in which they graduate. Students are additionally required to take one additional course at the 400-500 level within the area of their concentration. This “additional” 400-500 level course does not increase the number of credits required for the major or for the Honors Program but only mandates that one of the student’s elective courses be at the most advanced level in the area of their concentration. The Honors Thesis should be a 25-40 page research project directed by a faculty member of the Spanish program. Students interested in doing the Honors Program in Spanish first should express that interest to their faculty mentor.

**Sociology (Angie Chung, Director)**

- The purpose of the Sociology Honors Program is to provide highly-motivated students with advanced training in key research, analytical and writing skills; to guide them on the preparation of an Honors thesis/proposal; and to offer one-on-one professional guidance for those planning to move onto graduate school and prepare for the job market. The seminar can help you fine-tune the kind of critical thinking, sociological knowledge, and practical skills you will need in a wide range of careers, including academia, business, social welfare, government, medicine, and law. Among other things, the process of preparing and defending a research proposal can teach you how to think critically about interpersonal relations, organizational structures, and social inequality; to write effective fundraising grants; to provide well-informed political commentary on social issues; to put together strong business presentations and proposals; and to issue critical legal briefs and official reports based on solid evidence. In addition, you will have the opportunity to
interact with a faculty member, who can be a great resource for future recommendation letters and career guidance.

- Currently, the core of the Program is an Honors thesis to be prepared during your senior year. Two special courses are designed to help you accomplish this. In their junior year, students enroll in Sociology 488W Honors Research Proposal Seminar. This course focuses on helping you to create a proposal for your thesis research—how to design a research question, develop a theoretical argument, review relevant literature, collect and analyze data, and present results. The course will also include some discussion on researching, preparing for, and taking advantage of professional opportunities and post-graduate training using your Sociology degree and training. Depending on your individual needs, you will have a chance to consult with career advisors; get feedback on your resume and job/ professional school portfolio; and receive some guidance on where to go after graduation. The course is guided by the Honors Director, who helps each student select a faculty mentor for the proposed thesis project. **Note:** You may take this course in lieu of the required 400-level seminar if you wish, although be aware that this means the course must be structured to meet writing-intensive/ oral discourse/ information literacy requirements like the 400-level seminar.

- In the fall and/or the spring of their senior year students enroll in Sociology 498 (Senior Honors Thesis) to conduct the research and write the thesis they proposed the previous spring under the guidance of the chosen faculty mentor. Although the specific deadlines may vary depending on the project and arrangement each student makes with the faculty mentor, the student is expected to provide periodic drafts and progress reports throughout the senior year and to present the finished thesis to the faculty mentor and the Honors Director before the end of the spring semester. The student then graduates “with honors in sociology.”

The topics of some recent honors theses have included:

- how terrorist groups recruit new members and maintain group cohesion even though suicide is a valued action for group members.
- how and under what conditions military and political enemies in World War II and the Cold War still managed to cooperate in some of their interactions with each other.
- what role sentiment plays in the social interactions of individuals with different social status.
- how labor/management negotiations have evolved at General Electric since the early twentieth century, as revealed through archives the student uncovered at the GE facilities in Schenectady

We are currently in the middle of restructuring the program in order to better meet student needs and make the program more attractive to enrolled students. Although the program from this year will not include all of these changes, I encourage you to come speak to me if there is anything in particular you’d be interested in pursuing within the requirements of the program. Some ideas that we are considering include:

- Interdisciplinary relationships and programs with other departments, such as Criminal Justice
- The creation of a professionalization track where you can focus on writing research papers and career statements appropriate for your discipline
- Priority for enrollment in sociology courses
- Creation of special honors opportunities of a few courses, with additional, more individualized interaction with the instructors in those courses

- Your "award" in taking this course is producing a highly-quality senior thesis and job portfolio that represents the best work of your undergraduate career. Your thesis can be used as a writing sample in any field you enter. I will encourage you to submit your papers to different competitions, journals, and conferences that may come up throughout the year and to stay in touch with our department after you graduate. In addition, you will receive special recognition at the commencement awards ceremony and will be able to include this distinction to your resume. We would like to maintain relations with the alumni of our program and to provide opportunities for you to network with one another.
- In the last couple of years students who have completed the Sociology Honors Program have gone on to graduate training at Arizona, Cornell, UCLA, and UAlbany, among other places. Some have moved on to law school or business school. Still more have gone directly into the job market following graduation. Most have found their experience in the program valuable in preparing them for the paths they have followed.
- To be eligible to participate in the Sociology Honors Program, you need to have an overall grade point of average of at least 3.25. You must also be a declared major in sociology with a sociology grade point average of at least 3.50 and have completed at least 12 credits of coursework in sociology. Although there is some flexibility—some students have been admitted to the program with, say, a 3.20 overall or a 3.40 in sociology, these requirements must be met by the end of the spring semester of the junior year. You are expected to maintain the same grade point minimums during your involvement in the program.
- If you have questions or are interested in becoming a member of the Sociology Honors Program, please contact Professor Chung at aychung@albany.edu or 518-442-4666. I will start reviewing applications after November 15th.

Theater

- The honors program in theatre is designed to give exceptional undergraduates the opportunity to take advanced class work in the field of theatre studies and to work more closely with faculty on independent projects than might otherwise be possible. This program is available to theatre majors.

  **Requirements for admission to the Theatre Honors Program:**
  - A THR 121, 135, 220, 227, 235, and 240 completed or in progress; at least 60 but no more than 80 credits towards graduation; a 3.50 GPA in all theatre courses and an overall GPA of 3.25; submission of an application and project proposal to the Honors Committee.

  **Requirements for completion of the Theatre Honors Program:**
  - Overall GPA of 3.25; all requirements for core theatre major with GPA of 3.50 (the student may be removed from the Honors Program if the GPA drops below the required level, or in the case of excessive or unjustified incompletes in any course(s), pending the judgment of the Honors Committee); honors course or
independent study or other upper level course approved by the Honors Committee in which substantial research is done in preparation for the Honors project with a grade of B+ or higher (3 credits); Honors project with a grade of B+ or higher (3 credits).

Women's Studies

- Students may file an application for admission to the honors program in the department office in the second semester of the sophomore year or in the junior year. Junior transfers may apply at the time of their admission to the University.
- The minimum requirements for admission include completion of at least 12 credits of coursework applicable to the major, a minimum overall grade point average of 3.25, and a minimum 3.50 grade point average for all courses applicable toward the major.
- Students in the program are required to complete all of the requirements for the major in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. As part of their elective credits for the major, students must also complete 3 credits of intensive work culminating in an independent research or creative honors project.
- Typically the project begins as a paper the student writes for an upper-division Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies course no later than spring of the junior year. During the senior year, honors students fulfill the requirements for the honors program by enrolling in A WSS 495 Honors Project during the fall semester concurrently with A WSS 490Z, Research Seminar in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Alternatively, students who have been admitted into the honors program during their sophomore year may enroll in A WSS 490Z in the fall semester of their junior year in preparation for completion of the honors sequence during the subsequent two semesters.
- Students in the honors program are required to maintain overall grade point averages of 3.25 or higher during the junior and senior years and overall grade point averages of 3.50 or higher for all courses applicable toward the major. Students not meeting the above standards may be unable to complete the honors program.
- After completion of the above requirements, the records of the candidate will be reviewed by the department, which will recommend candidates for the degree with honors in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Membership in national and international honors societies is available to qualified students within certain disciplines. Interested students should contact the appropriate dean or department chair for further information. Listed below are some of the societies active at UAlbany.

- **Beta Alpha Psi** is an international honors society for accounting.
- **Kappa Delta Pi** is an international honors society for education.
- **Lambda Alpha** is a national honors society for anthropology.
- **Lambda Pi Eta** is a national honors society for communication studies.
- **Pi Sigma Alpha** is a national honors society for political science.
- **Psi Chi** is a national honors society for psychology.
- **Sigma Tau Delta** is a national honors society for English.