MA in MSTS Honor’s Paper Guidelines

Students who wish to produce a written analysis larger than those created in conjunction with specific graduate courses have the option of completing an informal “Master’s with Honor’s Paper.” This is a departmental project and not a formal thesis. Upon completing this project, you may list the Honor’s Paper on your CV.

Purpose: Why Do the Honor’s Paper?

The Honor’s Paper is optional and is not required to earn the MA in MSTS degree. However, there are several benefits to completing the paper. The Honor’s Paper offers an opportunity for extended learning and to work closely with a faculty member. Students may use the paper to explore a specific problem or issue in more depth than is possible in a graduate seminar and to develop skills that can be applied in future academic and professional pursuits, such as a PhD program or careers in medicine or technology industries.

**Paper Topic and Format**

The topic and format of the paper will vary depending on student interests and goals and should be determined in consultation with the faculty sponsor.

The Honor’s Paper may be based on: a theoretical review and/or critique of existing social science literature on a selected topic; an analysis of original ethnographic field research; any other topic that is acceptable to the faculty sponsor and program director.

Please note that any original research involving human subjects must be approved by the UCI Institutional Review Board (IRB). If you plan to submit a project for human subjects approval, please plan to do so as early in the Fall quarter as possible, ideally within the first 4 or 5 weeks. More information can be found at <http://research.uci.edu/compliance/human-research-protections/index.html>.

Alternative projects like the development of course syllabuses or educational materials, policy papers, or electronic resources will be considered, but students must demonstrate that the project involves equivalent intellectual effort and scholarship.

Although the paper’s final length depends on the project selected, an average Honor’s Paper is expected to be approximately 10,000 words, including all text, notes, and references.

**Schedule and Deadlines**

The Honor’s Paper is a three-quarter project.

*Fall*

Early in the Fall quarter, you should identify a faculty sponsor within the Anthropology department and begin work on your project proposal. Your proposal should define the problem or topic to be explored and identify the anticipated format for your final paper. Although the length of the proposal will vary depending on the project, acceptable proposals are likely to be 2-4 pages plus a bibliography. Your final proposal should be approved by your faculty sponsor.

If you intend to complete original research involving human subjects, apply for IRB approval within the first 4 or 5 weeks of the Fall quarter.

Submit the “Intent to Complete Honor’s Paper” form (available at <https://sites.google.com/a/uci.edu/irvineanth/msts>) along with your approved proposal to the MSTS program director by the last day of class in the Fall quarter (December 12, 2014).

*Winter*

You should plan to complete the majority of your library or field research and begin your analysis during the Winter quarter. Individual deadlines for outlines or other specific project stages may be determined jointly with your faculty sponsor.

*Spring*

Submit a full draft of your Honor’s Paper to your faculty sponsor by week 7 of the Spring quarter (May 11, 2015). The final version of your paper should be approved by your faculty sponsor by the last day of class in the Spring quarter (June 5, 2015). Submit a final copy with a signed cover sheet to the MSTS program director.

**Course Credit**

You may, but are not required to, register for Anthropology 299 (Independent Study) credits with your faculty sponsor during any of the three quarters. Please remember that up to 4 independent study units may be counted toward the MA in MSTS degree.