

The Sociology Honors Program at CSULB

(revised 10/19/07)

Students may be admitted to Sociology Department Honors program when they have:

- 1) completed the four lower division sociology courses required for the major (Soc 100, Soc. 142; Soc 200, Soc 250) or have junior standing and a minimum of four sociology courses;
- 2) a minimum of three semesters remaining before graduation
- 3) a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 overall and a minimum GPA of 3.5 in Sociology courses
- 4) submitted an application to the Department Honors committee with one letter of recommendation from a faculty member. .
- 5) been admitted to the Honors Program by the Department Honors Committee.

In order to graduate with Honors in Sociology a student must:

- 1) Complete all regular requirements for the major in Sociology;
- 2) Complete 3 units of an Honors Special Topics Seminar (Soc 487H) (or a course equivalent approved by the Department Honors advisor) and 6 units related to the Honors Thesis (Soc 488H Honors Research Seminar (3units) and Soc489H Honors Thesis (3units)). These units may be in addition to the general requirements for the major in sociology or may be counted as part of the concentration or elective units required for the major.
- 3) Complete a supervised Honors Thesis.
- 4) Do at least one of the following: Present a research paper for a student research competition, present a paper at a professional meeting, or write a research paper that the Honors Committee agrees is of professional quality.
- 4) Serve as a Student Teaching Fellow (peer facilitator) for at least one undergraduate sociology course OR serve as a research intern under the supervision of a faculty member.

Students are strongly recommended to:

- 1) Join Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society;
- 2) Engage in service to the department or the discipline of sociology

The Honors Program Seminars (9 units total)

Honors Special Topic Seminar (Soc 487H 3 units) (prereq: Soc 356)

This is an upper division seminar on a set of questions or issues important to a particular area of contemporary sociology. The topic will be chosen by the instructor and publicized ahead of time. Students use the tools of sociology of knowledge to analyze how these questions or issues emerged, how they have been studied, what debates have emerged, what conclusions have been reached, and what questions remain to be studied. Class participants will choose a topic or question from among those discussed and investigate it using one or more of the research methods discussed in this course or another sociology course the student has taken. With instructor's permission, students may choose topics or issues outside the scope of the course for their investigation. Students will present their research projects to each other for feedback and critique.

Honors Research Seminar (Soc488H 3 units) (prereq: Soc 355)

This course guides students through the initial stages of the research process for their thesis: identification of a question or topic, review of the relevant literature, formulation of hypotheses or guiding ideas, and data collection. Students will discuss readings about social science research strategies, processes, and methodologies as well as related issues such as writing techniques, editing drafts, identifying an audience for one's research report, and ethical issues in research. Students will meet together as a group to discuss readings and their progress with the instructor for the course but will receive guidance on their particular topic from the member of the faculty who has signed on as their thesis advisor.

Honors Thesis (Soc 489H 3 units) (prereq: Soc 356, Soc 357)

Students signed up for honors thesis credit will continue the work they began in Honors Research, meeting with periodically with other students who are writing their theses and coming together in the second half of the at the end to present their work.