

## **Honor's Nomination Process – Environmental Studies**

### **Primary steps in the Honors nomination process**

- Discuss the possibility of doing Honors with possible advisors and indicate your interest on the pre-proposal form in the winter semester of the junior year.
- Submit an acceptable final thesis proposal on the first Monday of the fall semester of the senior year.
- Submit a complete table of contents and draft of one chapter of the thesis the Monday after the Thanksgiving break.
- Give a poster presentation on your project at the environmental studies thesis poster session in the fall semester of the senior year.
- Give an oral presentation on your project to your advisor and the members of the environmental studies program committee in the first week of the winter semester.

### **Winter semester of the junior year**

Students should discuss the possibility of conducting Honors with potential advisors during the preparation of the thesis pre-proposal that is due in March of the junior year. Indicate your possible interest in doing Honors on the pre-proposal form. After reviewing your thesis pre-proposal, the Program Committee will indicate whether you have met the basic requirements (usually a GPA over 3.5 and excellence in academic accomplishments in previous work at Bates) to be considered for the Honors program.

### **Summer between junior and senior year**

Students intending to pursue Honors are expected to further develop their thesis topic prior to the start of the fall term of the senior year. You should consult with your thesis advisor during this time period.

### **Fall semester of the senior year**

The final thesis proposal is due in to your advisor on the first Monday of the fall semester of your senior year. Indicate your possible interest in doing Honors on the final thesis proposal form. The Program Committee, in consultation with your advisor, will indicate whether you have met the basic requirements (usually a GPA over 3.5 and excellence in academic accomplishments in previous work at Bates) and have a satisfactory thesis proposal to proceed toward possible nomination for the Honors program. A student interested in conducting Honors should have a clearly defined thesis topic/question in the final thesis proposal and have identified the key components of the thesis that will need to be developed. The final thesis proposal will include a thorough annotated bibliography of sources that will inform early work on the thesis.

Students intending to pursue Honors must submit to their advisor and the Chair of the environmental studies the following items by the Monday after Thanksgiving break:

- A table of contents for the thesis that includes a title and brief description of the content for each chapter.
- A working draft of at least one chapter of the thesis.

These materials will be read by members of the environmental studies program committee. In consultation with the advisor, they will judge the quality and thoroughness of the table of contents and chapter to determine whether the student is making satisfactory progress toward completion of an Honors thesis

Potential Honors students will give a poster at the environmental studies thesis poster session. Members of the program committee will know that you are interested in pursuing Honors and will speak with you at your poster to learn of your project and assess the progress you are making towards completion of the project.

#### **Winter semester of the senior year**

Honors nominations are due to the college at the end of the first week of the winter semester. Students intending to conduct Honors will give an oral presentation to the thesis advisor and environmental studies program committee the first week of the winter semester. The seminar should provide the committee with an organized overview of the project, a description of progress made to date, and future plans including a timetable for completion of the project. The student must exhibit poise and confidence during the seminar. The student must be able to answer questions posed by members of the program committee and engage with members of the committee in a scholarly discussion of the project.

The committee will judge the quality of the presentation, the quality of the project to date, and determine whether the student is making satisfactory progress toward completion of an Honors thesis. The program committee, in consultation with the advisor, will make a decision whether to formally nominate the student for Honors.

If, at any time prior to the submission of the written thesis, the thesis advisor feels that the student is not meeting the expectations of the environmental studies program for a satisfactory Honors thesis, she or he has the authority to withdraw the student from the Honors program.

A student formally nominated for Honors can withdraw from the program at any time prior to the thesis submission deadline or oral exam date.