

Honor's Nomination Process – Environmental Studies

Summary of steps in the Honors nomination process

- Discuss the possibility of doing Honors with possible advisors and indicate your interest on the pre-proposal application in the winter semester of the junior year.
- Submit an acceptable full thesis proposal in winter semester of the junior year or fall of the senior year (depending on advisor decision).
- Submit a complete table of contents and draft of one chapter of the thesis by November 15.
- Give an oral presentation on your project to your advisor and the members of the Environmental Studies Program Committee during reading day of finals week.
- Give a poster presentation on your project at the Environmental Studies thesis poster session at the end of both fall and winter semesters.
- Students who are not asked to move forward with Honors may be required to complete the thesis by the end of the fall semester.

Details of the Honors process

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 preproposal, 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 full 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 full 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 Environmental Studies the following items by November 15:

- 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 prior to the oral presentation.

Students will give an oral presentation to the thesis advisor and Environmental Studies Program Committee on reading day of finals week. 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 and the quality of the table of contents and chapter to 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 the student will be permitted to complete a two-semester thesis with the possibility of moving forward for Honors or will be asked to complete a one-semester thesis.

Winter semester of the senior year

Honors nominations are due to the College at the end of the first week of the winter semester. Decisions about whether a student should move forward to Honors candidacy will be made at this time by the Environmental Studies Committee in consultation with the thesis advisor on the basis of the work completed during fall semester, including the writing sample and the student's presentation.

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.