



Seton Hall University Department of History Honors Research Program

Application Form Academic Year 2025-2026

Complete this form and return to Prof. Kirsten Schultz and Prof. Maxim Matusevich via e-mail
(kirsten.schultz@shu.edu) and (maxim.matusevich@shu.edu) by Friday, April 26, 2025.

Name: _____

CWID: _____ Email: _____

Overall GPA: _____ GPA in History: _____

Brief Summary of Proposed Research Topic:

Name and signature of the potential faculty member who has agreed to advise your thesis:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Please attach a research proposal (you may simply type at the end of this document) of *no more than two double-spaced pages* that:

1. Identifies the topic of interest and states the specific question(s) that will guide your inquiry;
2. Explains your familiarity with the relevant historical literature on the topic;
3. Discusses your preparedness to pursue the project, including any previous work you have conducted on the topic, the availability of primary and secondary sources, and your familiarity with any foreign languages necessary to conduct research.
4. Include a brief annotated bibliography, identifying 3-4 books helpful to your proposed research.

Since your focus may change over the course of conducting research, the honors thesis proposal is not binding. It should, however, clearly convey your current research interests and the feasibility of your project. The more specific and detailed your proposal, the stronger your application will be.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and understand the requirements of the program provided on the reverse.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

About the Program

The honors research program invites outstanding undergraduate history majors to pursue intensive, year-long research on a topic of their own choosing under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The program allows admitted students to produce a senior thesis reflective of the highest standards of the scholarly discipline as part of a community of history honors students. Such research demands a high degree of scholarly dedication and self-motivation. Projects should be based on extensive *primary source* research, advance an original thesis, and demonstrate a clear grasp of existing scholarship on the selected topic.

Eligibility

History majors may apply to the program if they meet the following eligibility criteria. No exceptions will be made.

- Senior standing
- A 3.3 GPA in both the history major and overall
- A clear articulation of a proposed research topic

NOTE: Under current history major requirements, the second semester of honors research is *pursued in addition to the 36-credit major*. It does not require that you have finished all requirements for the major prior to applying, but HIST 5711 does not count as an upper-division elective.

Program Structure

Under a revised format beginning in the fall of 2012, students will be admitted to the honors program in the spring semester of their junior year and undertake two semesters of honors course work (for a total of 6 credits) during their senior year.

During the fall semester of their senior year, admitted students will participate in a designated honors section of HIST 5199: Senior Seminar. This section of HIST 5199 will be organized around broad historiographical and theoretical issues rather than focused on a particular chronological period, geographical area, or theme. Throughout the fall semester, each student will continue to consult with his or her individual thesis advisor. **Students are expected to complete research for the thesis by the end of the Fall semester. Students will also complete a series of written assignments that will serve as a foundation for the thesis, including a primary source analysis, a historiographical essay, and comprehensive annotated bibliography of secondary and primary sources.**

During the spring semester of their senior year, students will enroll in HIST 5711: Honors Research. **Students will meet regularly with their advisor while they write the thesis. Students should prepare to submit multiple drafts of parts or the whole thesis to their advisors throughout the semester. Advisors will indicate due dates for these drafts.** As part of their course requirements in HIST 5711, students will also participate in periodic meetings with fellow history honors students, led by the program coordinator. During these meetings, students will **participate in peer-review of thesis drafts. The Honors Program coordinator will provide guidelines for peer-review.** The completed thesis must be submitted by May 1, 2026. Those who miss the deadline for submission will receive a grade and credit for HIST 5711 but will not qualify for receipt of the "Honors in History" designation. Students will be required to present their research findings publicly at the History Honors Symposium in late April.

Summary of Program Requirements

- Submit the Honors Research Program application by April of junior year.
- Enroll in HIST 5199: Honors Senior Seminar in the fall semester of senior year.
- Enroll in HIST 5711: Honors Research in the spring semester of senior year.
- Bi-weekly meetings with faculty advisor over the course of the year.
- Regularly scheduled meetings with fellow honors students and honors program coordinator.
- Presentation to the History Department and invited guests at the Honors Symposium in late spring.
- The final thesis must be a minimum of 40 pages, including footnotes and bibliography.
- The thesis must earn at least an A-minus for a student to receive an "honors" designation at graduation.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Advisory:

Students are advised that the Department of History holds its Honors Program students to the highest standards of academic integrity. In the Fall semester, the HIST5199 HR instructor will review these standards and the problem of academic dishonesty in historical scholarship. Students also should read carefully the History Department's policy on academic dishonesty at <http://www.shu.edu/academics/artsci/history/academic-dishonesty.cfm>. All incidents of academic dishonesty, including presenting the research of other scholars as your own and citing primary sources as such without direct consultation of the sources, will be referred to the chair of the Department of History with a recommended course of action that may include an F grade on the assignment in question, an F grade for HIST5199 HR, or dismissal from the Honors Program.