

Honors Requirements

General Honors Requirements: To graduate with Honors or Honors Distinction in Public Affairs, the John Glenn College of Public Affairs requires a cumulative 3.4 GPA, completion of 6 honors or 4000 or higher level classes (courses in the major core do not count towards this number) by the end of a student's junior year, and the completion of either the Thesis (Distinction) or Honors Curriculum (Honors) requirements.

*Students who did not start at OSU in Honors can enroll after completion of two semesters (30 credit hours) if they have a 3.4 GPA and) have taken 1 Honors/upper-division course outside of the major core.

Honors Research Distinction (Thesis Option): To satisfy the thesis portion of the Public Affairs Honors program and graduate with Honors Distinction, the following requirements must be met:

An original research project must be completed under the direction of a faculty advisor (Assistant Professor or higher) from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. The student may also have one or more additional advisors who can come from any academic unit. A student should participate in honors research for at least two semesters with a commitment of at least 3 credit hours of **Public Affairs 4999H** per semester prior to final submission of the thesis. Honors research should be started no later than autumn of the student's final year. To qualify for graduation with honors research distinction, the student must submit an Honors Thesis Application to the Glenn College. The proposal form must be signed by the faculty advisor; this ensures that all parties have a common understanding of the proposed plan to complete a thesis for a given graduation deadline. The honors thesis application must be approved by the Glenn College before the student registers for the 4999H course work and begins the research.

Acceptable standards for the written paper of the research thesis or project will be determined by the faculty project advisor. A satisfactory oral defense of the thesis or project is required. The oral defense will last one hour and will be evaluated by a committee of at least two faculty members, including the student's faculty advisor.

Honors Curriculum (Non-Thesis Option): In addition to the thesis option, students may also satisfy the requirements for graduation with Honors in Public Affairs through the completion of an Honors Curriculum. Requirements for the Honors Curriculum are as follows:

1. Two additional honors or upper division (4000 level and above) courses, outside of the Public Affairs major core. It IS acceptable for these courses to be part of a specialization track or minor.

AND

2. One of the following:

- a. Two graduate level classes (6000 level and above)*
- b. Completion of the Washington Academic Internship Program
- c. Completion of a semester length academic study abroad program**
- d. Completion of a dual degree or double major

*Requires approval of the Graduate School

**Study abroad experience must be pre-approved by the Glenn College's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Note: Students who complete both the Thesis and Honors Curriculum will graduate with BOTH Honors and Honors Research Distinction in Public Affairs.

Note: Any non-honors student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher may complete a research thesis under the guidelines outlined above in order to graduate with Research Distinction in Public Affairs.