

## HONOURS PROGRAM—FAQS FOR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

**1. What's required for an Honours B.A. in Geography?**

- A minimum GPA of 3.33;
- Completed 132 credits, including 12 upper-level credits completed in a single field outside Geography,
- Completed additional coursework and research work as part of *Geography 354: Techniques in Human Geography* and *Geography 492: Honours Research Project*.

**2. How can I apply?**

Application materials are available from Nicole Levinsky, A407D.

**3. When can I apply?**

The student should make application during or after their third year of their Geography program—generally upon completion or near-completion of 90 credits.

**4. I'm graduating soon. Is it too late to apply?**

No, but completion of the Honours degree may delay graduation, depending on how many requirements you still need to meet. However, a student with more than 120 credits, a GPA of 3.33 and upper-level coursework outside of the program already completed may be able to finish their Honours requirements in 1-2 semesters.

**5. If I'm graduating soon, can I receive an Honours designation based on by GPA alone?**

No. The Department of Geography's Honours program uses GPA as one of several indicators of excellence. Honours applicants are required to meet each of the above requirements. Any exceptions to the Honours requirements would have to be granted on a case-by-case basis by the department Honours Advisory Committee.

**6. If I don't have a 3.33 GPA, can I still apply if I think I can bring my GPA up?**

This depends on what your GPA currently is. Should you apply and the department Honours Advisory Committee feels that it is unlikely that you will bring up your GPA, they may recommend that you re-apply at a later time. In the meantime, you can work towards your Honours requirement.

**7. Who will my Honours supervisor be?**

If you have already worked with an instructor with whom you would like to continue working, approach him or her about supervising your Honours program. They can sit down with you and discuss some of the best strategies for planning your program, and some

ideas on what types of research projects might be appropriate for Geography 492.

If you do not know with whom you would like to work, make an application to the department, and the Honours Advisory Committee will identify a potential supervisor for you.

**8. Can I change supervisors?**

If you find that you would rather work with another instructor, it is acceptable to change supervisors. However, this cannot be done during the completion of Geography 492.

**9. I'm a physical geographer. Do I have to take Geography 354: Techniques in Human Geography?**

Yes. An Honours designation rewards excellence in Geography, not physical geography alone.

**10. For my Honours project, I'd like to do something that might take more than 1-semester to complete. What should I do?**

If you and your supervisor determine that your Honours project is worth more than 4 credits and would take longer than a single semester, you may choose to complete (or even begin) the project as for Directed Studies credit. It is recommended that you start a semester early if you anticipate this being the case. Your supervisor will then determine which part of the project will serve as Geography 492, and what the evaluation (grade) will be based on.

**11. It says in the Honours information that I need to present my findings. Where would I do this?**

You have a number of venues available. In March/ April, the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers holds its annual meeting and in May, the Association of Washington Geographers does so as well. Other professional conferences or UCFV student research day also potentially serve as appropriate venues. Your supervisor may also arrange for you to do a guest lecture or presentation based on your research to one of the Geography courses.

**12. What do I need to do when getting ready to graduate?**

Pick up, complete, and submit an Honours graduation checklist to the department assistant Nicole Levinsky, A407D.