Requirements for Graduation with Special Honors in Government:

- 3.5 Government grade point average
- 3.00 University grade point average
- 33 semester hours of Government, including both GOV 679HA/HB
- 60 semester hours completed at the University
- Successful completion of thesis
- Recommendation of thesis supervisor

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Government and the College of Liberal Arts offer a variety of scholarships and research awards for students pursuing honors distinction. Please see the departmental and college websites for more information.

HONORS THESIS FACULTY ADVISOR

Prof. John McIver
mciver@austin.utexas.edu
512-232-7271
BAT 3.134

For questions and application forms, please contact:
The Academic Advisors Office
Department of Government
guao@austin.utexas.edu
(512) 232-7283
Batts 2.102

HONORS THESIS PROGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

The Honors Thesis Program offers students the opportunity to conduct original, independent research in the field of Government.
The Honors Thesis Program is a year-long course that provides undergraduates with the opportunity to conduct research in an area of Political Science of their choice. The fall seminar (GOV 679HA) provides a forum for students to develop their theses in a structured and collegial setting. Students also work closely with a faculty supervisor beginning in the fall semester. A supervisor is a professor in the Government Department who has specialized knowledge in the student’s area of interest and has agreed to oversee the student’s honors thesis. The spring semester tutorial (GOV 679HB) consists exclusively of one-on-one work with the supervisor. GOV 679HA and GOV 679HB are both 3-hour courses.

Although the fall seminar includes some training in research methods, students interested in empirical questions are encouraged to complete a course in research methods in Government or a related social science discipline before taking GOV 679HA. Examples of useful research methods courses include GOV 339L and GOV 350K. Students interested in political theory are encouraged to take upper divisions courses in this field.

The honors thesis project is intended to:
- Give students experience in developing a substantial research project
- Create an environment for scholarly exchange among Honors students and between students and Government Department faculty
- Expose students to some of the challenges involved in graduate-level scholarship and professional research
- Guide students as they form their research project into a top-quality thesis

Minimum Admission Requirements for Honors Thesis Program
- 3.5 Government grade point average
- 3.00 University grade point average
- Minimum of 60 semester hours, including 15 hours of Government
- Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission

TIMELINE FOR HONORS THESIS

**JUNIOR YEAR**
April
- Applications for Honors Thesis Program and writing sample due
- Notification of acceptance to the Honors Thesis Program

May through August
- Confer with Government faculty about possible topics and research questions for undergraduate thesis
- Read broadly in your area of interest. May request reading lists from Government faculty

Students interested in empirical questions are encouraged to take a course in social science research methods.

**SENIOR YEAR**

**Fall Semester (GOV 679HA)**
August
- Specify thesis topic and research question
- Find thesis supervisor

October
- Complete project statement and annotated bibliography
- Specify research design

December
- Turn in completed draft of introductory chapter

**Spring Semester (GOV 679HB)**
March
- Produce a complete draft of thesis (normally 50-70 pages).

April
- Revise and complete honors thesis