

Barrett, the Honors College Arizona State University, West Campus School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies

The School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies in the New College actively supports the goals and mission of Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University through its work with students enrolled in any of the School Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies' undergraduate humanities programs.

The School of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (SHArCS) challenges students to explore and value the diversity of human culture, history, thought, literature, language, and experience. Drawing on established disciplinary fields and new transdisciplinary scholarly areas and approaches, SHArCS teaches students to reflect critically on multiple dimensions of human identity and cultural life; to contribute to scholarship, creative production, and innovation through multiple methods of observing and documenting the world; and to develop the skills of responsible and engaged global citizens.

Barrett Honors College students working in the humanities have the opportunity to work with SHArCS faculty who engage in genuinely interdisciplinary research and teaching in the fields of American studies, interdisciplinary arts and performance, interdisciplinary arts and sciences studies, English, English (secondary education), history, history (secondary education), Latin American studies, philosophy, religion, ethics, ethnicity and first nations studies, Spanish, and women and gender studies.

Advisors

Dr. Francine McGregor, Assistant Professor of English and Rhetorical Studies, serves as Faculty Honors Advisor for Barrett students in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies. Dr. McGregor is available to help students learn about honors courses and enrichment contracts, trending topics in the field, professional organizations and conferences, and how to prepare for graduate school in the discipline. In addition, Dr. McGregor serves as a point of contact for the honors thesis/creative project, helping students understand the requirements, thinking through potential topics and research questions, and identifying suitable committee members.

Liz Marini serves as Program Manager and Advisor for Barrett students. She assists students with scheduling and course advising issues.

Honors Enrichment Contracts in SHArCS

The primary purpose of the Honors Enrichment Contract is to give students and faculty the opportunity to interact with challenging academic issues in non-honors courses. Students and faculty should feel free to design an agreement that is tailored to the specifics of their interaction, the expected work, and the course. Both faculty and students should be able to benefit from the honors enrichment contract work. The student

initiates the Honors Enrichment Contract process through his or her MyASU page by selecting the “Honors Enrichment Contract” link in the My Programs area.

Thesis and Creative Project Overview

One of the signature components of the honors experience is the honors thesis or creative project. This project represents the culmination of the entire honors experience and undergraduate education. The thesis/creative project provides an opportunity to contribute to and advance knowledge in your discipline in a meaningful way. It is an opportunity to engage with professors, nationally recognized in their fields and specifically committed to working with honors students as Directors, Committee Members, and Faculty Honors Advisors. Completing a thesis/creative project can be the most rewarding experience of an undergraduate career. The project provides opportunity to explore areas of academic interest with greater intensity than is possible in a single course.

Honors students working in the humanities complete their Honors Thesis/Creative Project under the direction of a School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies Faculty Mentor who serves as Thesis Director, assists with the thesis or creative project, and whose professional interests support the student’s thesis topic. Students can explore SHArCS Faculty and learn more about their areas of expertise here:

<https://newcollege.asu.edu/faculty-directory>

Completing aspects of honors work within the School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies is a valuable, fulfilling experience for both students and faculty. Faculty involved in the growth and mentoring of undergraduate students are rewarded with opportunities to reflect on their own teaching and learning.

Thesis and Project Funding

If you need financial assistance to conduct your thesis research, fund your travel to a national conference or participate in Celebrating Honors, you can apply for funds on the basis of application/merit and evidence of faculty and departmental support by completing the appropriate request form, available below. You may be asked to schedule a follow up appointment with the Dean, if necessary.

- **Thesis Funding** – While many students do not have a need for funding, some theses may be costly. Students may receive up to \$500 to complete their thesis. This funding may cover items such as books, copying, equipment and other materials as needed throughout the project. Please review the Thesis Reimbursement Application for more details. Additional funding for copying can be received after turning in your prospectus by seeing the Barrett Advising front desk.
- **Honors Project Fund** – Typically used for non-thesis related expenses. This funding may be used to cover expenses related to special projects (i.e. presenting a paper at a conference or attending an annual meeting related to your major). The

funds may be used to cover such costs as travel, hotel, conference registration and supplies. This process is outlined in the “Honors Project Fund” handout.

- [External Examiner Program](#) – Barrett students and their thesis directors can also apply to bring in an outside examiner or expert in the discipline from another institution to sit on the thesis committee as the third reader. The purpose of this support is to encourage students to be more venturesome in their research projects. Students may receive up to \$1500 to bring in an expert in their thesis field from outside the University. This process is outlined in the “Barrett Honors External Examiner Program” handout.

Thesis and Creative Project Checklist

- Attend a mandatory Barrett thesis preparation experience: 1) In-person Barrett thesis workshop 2) Online (via Blackboard) Barrett thesis workshop 3) Major specific thesis preparatory workshop or course.
- Thoroughly review the Honors Thesis/Creative Project Student Guidebook and reference it throughout your project. Be aware of the deadlines and expectations of the project.
- Brainstorm ideas for your topic. Think of subjects that you have a passion for and that may assist you with future academic and career goals. View past thesis/creative projects through the ASU Library Digital Repository.
- Create a list of questions and topic ideas to discuss with a potential Director.
- Schedule a meeting with potential Directors. Refer to the Faculty Honors Advisors for additional assistance.
- Once you have a confirmed Director, register for the appropriate course(s) (XXX 492 and/or XXX 493) through your Director’s department. Check Guidelines under Honors Opportunities in the Major on the Barrett website.
- Select the Second Committee Member in collaboration with your Director.
- Write your prospectus, have it reviewed and signed by your Director and Second Committee Member.
- Submit your prospectus to the Barrett Advising Office by the appropriate deadline.
- Keep an eye out for email approval of your prospectus from the Barrett Advising Office.
- Meet regularly with your Director and Second Committee Member on the progress of your thesis/creative project.
- Review the online Defense Calendar and attend a Defense.
- Designate a Third Committee Member with assistance from your Director. (If applicable.)
- Determine the date and location of defense with the approval of your Director.
- Schedule the room for your defense through Barrett or the department your Director would like to hold the defense.
- Submit your Thesis Defense Reporting Form to notify Barrett of the details of your defense.
- Complete and file the Thesis/Creative Project Reimbursement Application, if needed.

- Finalize your thesis/creative project with the guidance of your committee, and prepare for your defense.
- Give the committee members the final copy (not the first draft) at least two weeks prior to the defense.
- Complete your defense and have your Signature Title Page correctly signed by your committee.
- Submit your thesis through the two-step process: 1) hard copy of signature title page and abstract to the Barrett advising office and 2) digitally upload your full project to the ASU Library Digital Repository. See [Final Copy Submission/Formatting section](#).
- Confirm that your Director submits a grade for the completed thesis/creative project and changes the Z grade if one was submitted in a prior semester (for 492). All Z grades must be changed to regular grades.
- Remember- Submit the Barrett Graduation Form through MyASU by the deadline of your graduating semester. This form is used to RSVP for the Barrett Convocation and to declare your intent to graduate from Barrett.