

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
RCAH 491: Senior Thesis

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Application for RCAH 491: Senior Thesis

Instructions

1. The primary way that RCAH students will fulfill their College capstone requirement is by taking the Senior Seminar (RCAH 492).
2. The alternative to this is to apply for permission to enroll in the Senior Thesis (RCAH 491) and write a thesis. Permission will be granted to a limited number of students based on applications that are well-written, that propose well-conceived and carefully thought-through projects, and that are founded on the student's class-work and experiences, especially in the RCAH.
3. Students wishing to complete the capstone by writing a senior thesis must submit an application to the Dean's office (submit to Pam Newsted) by the end of March in the spring **before** their senior year. Students wishing to take the Senior Thesis (RCAH 491) in either fall 2014 or spring 2015 must submit an application by **March 31, 2014**.
4. The application must include:
 - a. a completed, **typed** thesis application form (attached) that includes signed approval by the faculty who will serve as the thesis advisor
 - b. a 750-word proposal. A strong proposal will include a coherent research question, discussion of why it is significant or of interest, and a clear description of how you will approach answering it. For creative works, a strong proposal will include a clearly framed creative problem, why it is significant or of interest, the means you will use to engage it, and why these means are suitable or what they contribute to your endeavor.
 - c. a bibliography (minimum ten references)
 - d. a 250-word "professional narrative" or "bio-sketch." This should explain how this project, as a capstone project, relates to and builds on previous work you have completed in the RCAH and at MSU. It could also include an account of resources that will be drawn on (people to consult with, etc.).
 - e. a completed Advisor Form, submitted under separate cover directly by the faculty member to the Dean's office (Pam Newsted).

The application should be complete, carefully written, and well-organized.

5. Upon approval of the Dean's office, students will be given permission to enroll in RCAH 491, Senior Thesis, for the upcoming academic year.
6. Completion of the thesis requires the following:
 - a. Permanent documentation of the project submitted to the RCAH. If the thesis is a written document, submission of that document is sufficient. If the project includes an exhibit or performance, then the student and faculty advisor will agree on an appropriate format for submission.
 - b. Assignment of a passing grade by the faculty advisor.

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Application

Student: _____

Thesis Supervisor: _____

Semester during which the project will be completed: _____

1. Project Title:

2. Abstract:

3. Special notes (e.g., are there special requirements such as performance or exhibit space, involvement of a community partner, etc.):

4. Attach 750-word proposal with bibliography and 250-word narrative or bio-sketch.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Instructor's Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

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ADVISOR FORM

If you are working with a student who completes and turns in an application to take RCAH 491, Senior Thesis, please fill out this form and submit it to the Dean's office. It will provide helpful information to your colleagues on the proposal review committee.

Name of student _____

1. This student has the ability to succeed with this project.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

2. This project is well conceived.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

3. Have you worked with this student before? Yes _____ No _____

4. I am enthusiastic about supervising this project.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Not sure
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. Please provide any additional comments that you feel would be useful in reviewing this proposal.

Signed _____

Date _____