

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

The primary way that RCAH students will fulfill their College capstone requirement is by taking the Senior Seminar (RCAH 492).

1. 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. Please note: Students may not use the Senior Thesis as an Honors College experience.
2. Students wishing to complete the capstone by writing a senior thesis must submit an application to the Chair of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) Professor India Plough (ploughi@msu.edu) in the spring **before** their senior year. Students wishing to take the Senior Thesis (RCAH 491) in either fall 2021 or spring 2022 must submit an application by **March 15, 2021**.
3. The application must include:
 - a. a completed, **typed** thesis application form (attached).
 - 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.).

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

4. The EPC is holding an informational session on effective proposal writing on **March 5, 2021 at 2:00**. Zoom link TBA. Contact Professor Plough (ploughi@msu.edu) by March 1 to sign up.
5. Upon approval of the EPC, 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. A public presentation of the completed work, for example: through UURAF, a local/regional conference, community partners, or an RCAH colloquium.
 - b. Permanent documentation of the project submitted to the RCAH (submit to Professor Plough). 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.
 - c. Assignment of a passing grade by the faculty advisor.

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Application

TO BE TYPED

Student: _____

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. Faculty Advisor: Your thesis will be completed under the guidance of an RCAH faculty member. Please list 2 to 3 faculty who you believe would be qualified to work with you on this project.

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

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