

Residential College in
the Arts and Humanities

RCAH 491: Senior Thesis

The process outlined below is meant to mentor students in designing an RCAH capstone experience most appropriate for their RCAH degree and goals.

Students interested in completing a semester-long research project as their RCAH capstone experience may apply for permission to enroll in RCAH 491 (Senior Thesis) and complete a senior thesis. Permission will be granted to a limited number of students based on applications that propose well-conceived, carefully thought-through projects founded on the student's classwork and experiences in RCAH.

Students may not use the Senior Thesis as an Honors College experience.

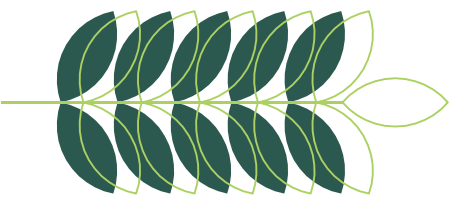
Instructions

Students wishing to be considered as a candidate for completing a senior thesis should complete the following steps in the spring semester of their third (junior) year:

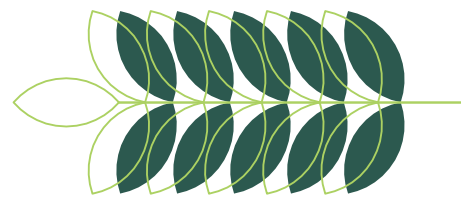
1. Enroll in a senior seminar (RCAH 492).
2. Submit a typed, completed RCAH Senior Thesis Application to the Dean's Office by April 4, 2025.
Please email the typed, completed form to rcahseniorthesis@gmail.com by April 4, 2025.
3. Wait to be notified about their eligibility to submit a senior thesis proposal. Students will be notified of their eligibility to submit a full proposal by April 10, 2025.
4. **Students notified as being eligible to submit a full proposal must then:**
 - a. **Attend the Senior Thesis Proposal Workshop on April 11, 2025 at 1-2:30 pm. Location TBA. If you are submitting a senior thesis application, please adjust your schedule so that you can attend this workshop. (Location TBA)**
 - b. Submit a full senior thesis proposal to the Dean's Office no later than May 9, 2025. The full senior thesis proposal should include:
 - i. A 750-word Proposal. Proposals should follow the conventions of a research proposal that demonstrates how the project is grounded in research-based discussions taken up by other scholars, artists, or community organizers. The best proposals will make an argument for the project's need by outlining how the



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project contributes to these larger research-informed discussions.

A strong proposal will also 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.

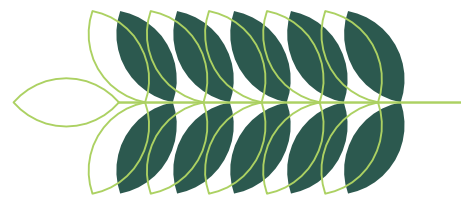
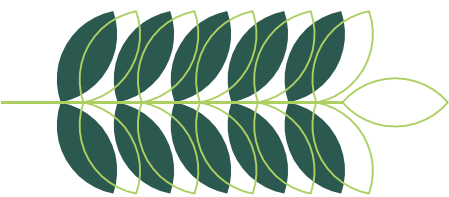
- ii. A Working Bibliography with a minimum ten references.
 - iii. A 250-word "professional narrative" or "bio-sketch" that explains how this project, as a capstone project, relates to and builds on previous work you have completed in the RCAH and at MSU.
5. Students whose full proposals are approved will be notified and permitted to enroll in RCAH 491 (Senior Thesis) no later than the end of May 2025. Students should also review the "Completion of RCAH 491 (Senior Thesis)" outlined below.

Completion of RCAH 491 (Senior Thesis) requires the following:

1. A public presentation of the completed work, for example: through UURAF, a local/regional conference, a community partner venue, or an RCAH event (e.g., a presentation, exhibition, or screening).
2. Permanent documentation of the project submitted to RCAH (submit to Corrine Williams). 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.
3. Assignment of a passing grade by the faculty advisor.
4. Students may not use the Senior Thesis as an Honors College experience.



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RCAH 491: Senior Thesis Application

TO BE TYPED

Student Name:

Semester during which the project will be completed:

Proposed Project Title:

Tentative, Brief Description (50 words or less):

Please answer each of the following questions briefly in 70 words or less.

1. Why is a semester-long senior thesis project the best option as a capstone experience for your RCAH degree?
2. How does the project you have in mind build on or extend a previous RCAH project?
3. How does the project you have in mind serve as a “capstone” to your RCAH major?
4. Name a faculty member that could direct your project. In what capacity have you worked with this faculty member before?
5. Name a second faculty member that could direct your project. In what capacity have you worked with this faculty member before?
6. If you plan to include human participants in your project, what role will they play in your research or creative work? What thoughts have you given to designing your project to minimize any potential/unintended harm to participants or and place their wellbeing as central to your project design?
7. What is your relationship to this research/creative topic? What challenges might you encounter in pursuing this research as a semester-long project?
8. Special notes (e.g., special requirements such as performance or exhibit space, involvement of a community partner, etc.):

Student's Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____



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