

Government 495-96, Honors Information

Eligibility: Students are eligible to apply for Honors in the spring semester of junior year if they have met/will meet these requirements (no exceptions/exemptions will be granted):

- a) attained at least a **3.0 cumulative GPA** or a **3.0 GPA for junior year alone**.
- b) attained at least a **3.3 in Government** courses before enrollment in Govt. 495.
- c) completed **Govt. 301, Research Methods** [may be taken fall of senior year].
- d) undertaken **other substantive Government courses** related to the thesis topic.

Topic: There is a wide variety of possible topic areas, but any Honors project must develop and examine a thesis relevant to political science. Consult the Charles Center website for information and lists of recent theses.

Advisor: Students must identify a full-time Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor and/or Teaching Professor in Government with appropriate teaching/research interests willing to supervise the project (ideally one with whom they have already had courses in the subject area). The latter's ability to serve will depend upon other commitments and his/her sense of the project's potential. Later the student and advisor must identify a second faculty reader in Government and a third from another department.

Approval: The student must complete this form *and* the Charles Center's "Application for Admission to Departmental Honors" (available on the Charles Center website). Both must be signed by the advisor and submitted to the Department office (i.e., not directly to the Charles Center) by the end of the Spring semester of junior year, although it may be done up until the first day of Add/Drop of the fall semester of senior year. A permission override will be entered such that the student can then directly enroll in Govt. 495.

Government 495: The project entails a full year of substantial reading and original research. By the end of the exam period in the fall semester, each student in Govt. 495 must hold a conference with his/her thesis supervisor and second reader, and submit a progress form (see the website) signed by all three: it should confirm that major progress has been made toward completion of the thesis, including a research design and literature review (which must be attached to the form).

Government 496: All students enrolled in Govt. 496 during the spring of senior year must also present their research at the Charles Center spring Honors colloquium; the advisor and second Government reader will attend. The final product is a major paper due to all of the faculty readers (the oral exam panel) by April 15. [Note: Govt. 495-96 count toward the 33 hours for a government major, but *not* the 400-level seminar requirement].

Required Seminar: All students enrolled in GOVT 495 and 496 are automatically enrolled in a required seminar for Government honors students. The seminar will meet approximately every other week during the fall and spring semesters, at a time to be determined by the faculty instructor and class members. Students will complete assignments for the seminar that will be geared toward helping them craft and develop their thesis projects.

Spring/Fall Theses: With special Department approval, a student seeking to graduate in the fall of his/her senior year may begin a thesis project during the preceding spring.

Information: Read the College Catalog section under Special Programs “Major Honors” and the Department website <http://www.wm.edu/government/> Undergraduate Curriculum.

Please note that you can use Adobe’s Fill and Sign feature to complete this application electronically. Email completed application to the Associate Chair of Government.

**Government 495-96, Honors
Application Form**

a) General Information: Provide the following in clearly legible form.

Student Name _____
Faculty Advisor _____
Student ID Number (930) _____
Student Email Address _____
Thesis Semesters _____
Overall GPA* _____
Junior Year GPA* _____
Government GPA* _____

*calculated so as to include projected Spring semester junior year final grades

- b) Project Description: Attach a project description of one typewritten page to this form.
- c) Transcript: Attach a current copy of an unofficial transcript (Banner version acceptable)
- d) Signatures: Sign the form below, obtain the advisor's signature and turn the form in. This signature serves as confirmation that you have read, understand, and will adhere to Government Honors requirements as explained on the reverse side of this form.

Student _____
Advisor _____
Associate Chair _____

Date _____
Date _____
Date _____

Last revised June 2026