

THE HONORS PROGRAM IN GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE STUDIES

The Department of Government and Justice Studies welcomes you to the honors program in criminal justice or political science. Students wishing to graduate with departmental honors should read the following information regarding eligibility and program requirements.

Eligibility and Requirements

Classes in the Government and Justice Studies honors program are open to all criminal justice majors who have achieved an overall grade point average of 3.25 with (45) hours of coursework, including general education, completed. To graduate with departmental honors, a student must:

- complete (6) hours of honors-designated courses in the department. Students may substitute one political science honors course (maximum 3 hours) in the place of a criminal justice honors course, or vis-versa (the substituted class will count in the GPA calculation)
- complete a (1) hour Thesis Preparation course (CJ/PS4509)
- complete a (3) hour Senior Honors Thesis (CJ/PS4510)
- maintain a minimum 3.45 GPA in their criminal justice coursework, and earn a “B” or better in all honors coursework

Course Offerings

The general strategy of the department will be to employ a mix of honors sections of existing courses with new courses designed specifically for the honors program (offered under the designator CJ or PS 3510). Students should search the course schedule in political science and criminal justice for current honors offerings. For any non-major taking a political science honors course, the course will carry full elective credit for university honors. All honors courses carry a section number of 410X.

****The thesis prep and thesis courses are not on the course schedule. In order to sign up for these two requirements, you must see your thesis chair to fill out the [special course form](#).**

Benefits

- Small, intellectually challenging classes where you have the opportunity to develop closer relationships with professors in your major. Often, these classes are taught in the professor’s area of specific expertise. The classes are often taught in a seminar format, like classes in graduate school.
- The opportunity to work one-on-one with the professor of your choosing to complete a thesis project on a topic of particular interest to you.

- Stronger letters of recommendation for careers, law, and graduate school applications, both because it will be recognized that you voluntarily took a more challenging course of study as an undergraduate, and because of the closer relationships you will have developed with the professors who will write letters for you.
- Special recognition for your accomplishment in the commencement ceremony for graduation, as well as in a special ceremony given by the Department of Government and Justice Studies in which you will receive a certificate to frame and honors cords to wear at graduation.

Honors Thesis

All students seeking to graduate with honors in criminal justice must complete an honors thesis during their senior year. Students will be expected to work with a faculty chair of their choosing to select a topic for their independent research, and to complete the written thesis. The student will complete the thesis application form, and, with the consultation of the advisor, and develop a timeline for the completion of the thesis. Be sure to read the “Plan Your Honors Thesis” file for more information. This work will be completed in fulfillment of PS/CJ4509 and PS/CJ4510. Be sure to read all the information on the requirements for theses located here on the honors page when you get close to completing your thesis so you will know what you need to do.

For more information about the program, contact the Honors Program Director:

Dr. Ellen Key
keyem@appstate.edu
350C Anne Belk Hall

While you're welcome to stop by if I'm available, it is best to set up an appointment via email.