

CRCJ 4908

Honours Research Project in Criminology and
Criminal Justice

What is the Honours Research Project?

- ▶ The Honours Research Project is often referred to as a Thesis
 - ▶ It is NOT compulsory, but students not doing CRCJ 4908 must complete 1.0 credit of approved CCJ Electives at the 4000-level
 - ▶ It is a full-credit course that involves doing original research under the guidance of a faculty member, usually in the area of their concentration
 - ▶ The theory, data, results and implications of the research project are summarized in a single essay due at the end of the Winter term
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- ▶ The length of the essay varies but is between 20 and 40 pages long
 - ▶ An Undergraduate Thesis is sometimes required for admission to a Masters program
 - ▶ A thesis is not required for Law School, but it may be good experience/practice for graduate studies and/or careers involving data analysis
 - ▶ Examples are available for review in the Crim Main Office
 - ▶ CRCJ 4908 students participate in a reception in March where they display posters summarizing the details of their research
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GPA Requirements

- ▶ According to the Undergraduate Calendar, students need a minimum 10.0 Major CGPA in order to be eligible to do the Honours Research Project (Thesis)
 - Major CGPA is the 2nd CGPA reported on your audit; right at the beginning of the list of Major requirements.
 - Students with a slightly lower CGPA may be given permission from the Director in some cases

Course Pre-requisites

- ▶ Students should have completed the research methods course for their concentration in order to adequately prepare them for the Honours Research Project (Thesis).
- ▶ Students doing a Thesis with a faculty member in a department outside their concentration should have completed the associated research methods from ICCJ (e.g. CRCJ 3002 or CRCJ 3003)

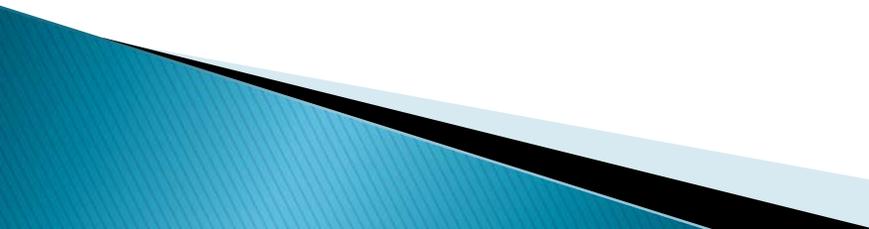
Step #1

▶ Find a Faculty Supervisor

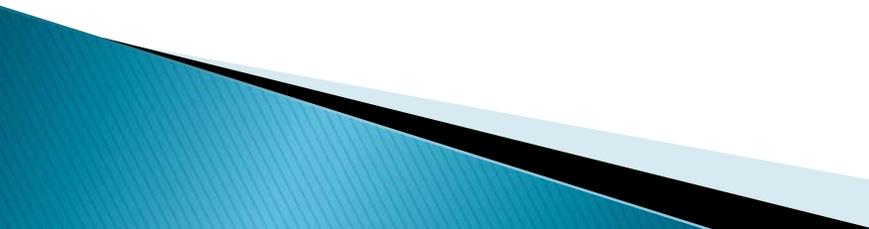
- If you have the appropriate CGPA, and course pre-requisites, the next step is to find someone to supervise your research.
 - For Law & Soc-related projects, begin looking for a supervisor during the winter term. For Psych-related projects, start in December or January.
 - This person should have expertise with the topic you are interested in.
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- A good place to start is one of our webpages that lists Departmental Faculty as well as Cross-appointed faculty from other departments:
www.carleton.ca/criminology/faculty-and-staff/
- Contact 2 or 3 potential supervisors by email and set up a meeting to discuss the matter.
- Ensure that they are available and aren't away on sabbatical (research leave) or are already busy with other theses supervisions (UG or Grad).
- Ensure that they are willing to supervise you on the topic you want
- Ask them to confirm by email so you have it in writing.

Psychology-related Theses

- ▶ Students hoping to do a Psychology-related theses MUST be in a Psychology Concentration and MUST have completed PSYC 3000.
 - ▶ In general, Psychology professors give preference to Psychology Majors before other Majors (including Criminology).
 - ▶ Note that students cannot do a graduate degree without first doing a Psychology degree.
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Step #2

- ▶ Forward the email from your supervisor to Marilyn or Robin so they can enter “Departmental Permission” into the system to allow you to register for CRCJ 4908 and include your Criminology–related topic
 - ▶ Classes / Meetings will usually take place in the Ken Hatt Boardroom (Room C563) on a regular (but not weekly) basis with the Director of ICCJ
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Comments from Previous CRCJ 4908 Students:

- ▶ “If you take two 4000–level Crim electives, you will have two 20–page assignments to write instead of one 30–40 page assignment, so it’s the same amount of writing.”
 - ▶ “I can use the research I’ve gathered for my thesis towards the research I want to do for my Masters degree.”
 - ▶ “Choose a topic you’re interested in. You’ll be discussing this topic for 8 months and it can be easy to lose motivation if your topic is trivial.”
 - ▶ Even if your Masters degree doesn’t require a thesis, the process provides you with the research skills as well as initiative and independence you need in order to be successful.
 - ▶ “The Honours Research Project has enhanced my education because it has taught me applicable skills – how to use programs to manipulate data, code thematic elements in documents, etc. which can be used for grad studies as well as applied research positions in government and non–governmental organizations.”
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