



Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Office of Student and Academic Services
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BLOUSTEIN HONORS RESEARCH

Health Administration:	10:501:497 - Fall	10:501:498 - Spring
Planning and Public Policy:	10:762:497 - Fall	10:762:498 - Spring
Public Health:	10:832:497 - Fall	10:832:498 - Spring
Public Policy:	10:833:497 - Fall	10:833:498 - Spring
Urban Planning & Design	10:971:497 - Fall	10:971:498 - Spring

The Bloustein School offers eligible undergraduate majors the opportunity to complete a two-semester (full academic year) Honors Research experience and write an honors thesis, under the direction of a Bloustein faculty member.

What is Honors Research?

The honors research program offers the highest level of research experience and intensity for undergraduate students. It is not a research internship; the student will be expected to produce deliverables (see below) of an independent, summative nature. It requires more student commitment and work than an independent study; data analysis will often be required. It is a capstone research project that will integrate concepts and skills from a wide range of students' coursework at Bloustein.

What are the requirements?

Students will enroll in three credits each in the fall and spring semesters, under the same faculty mentor. There are two main deliverables at the completion of the Bloustein Honors Research program. The first is a thesis, typically 30-40 pages excluding tables and references. The exact page requirements will be decided upon between the student and faculty mentor before the start of the fall semester. The second deliverable from the Bloustein Honors Research Program is a 20-minute oral (Power Point) presentation in front of the Bloustein community. Both the thesis and the oral presentation will be due/scheduled at the end of the spring semester.

Who is eligible to enroll?

Students must be a formally declared Bloustein School major, have completed the required Research Methods course (775:395), and have an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a major GPA of 3.6 or higher in order to submit an application. Students are encouraged to reach out to faculty to schedule a meeting to discuss their interest in the program. Students must meet with a faculty member to decide on the topic and scope, and draft a brief thesis proposal for submission with the application. (See attached example.)

How does a student enroll?

In order to enroll, the student must fill out the Application to Enroll for Bloustein Honors Research, obtain the required signatures, and submit it to the Office of Academic and Student Services. This form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Academic and Student Services in the Civic Square Building, Suite 100, along with a brief thesis proposal. (See attached example.) The student will receive official notification from Dr. Marc Weiner, Undergraduate Program Director, on action pertaining to this request.

More information?

RUTGERS

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If you have questions, please contact your assigned advisor.

EXAMPLE

Brief thesis proposal

Student Investigator: xxxxxxxx

Faculty Advisor: Andrea Hetling

Project Title: A Gaps Analysis of Homelessness Strategies in Atlanta

RESEARCH PROTOCOL

Title of Project: A Gaps Analysis of Homelessness Strategies in Atlanta Objective:

The purpose of this study is to analyze existing data to identify gaps between the resources meant to help Atlantans experiencing homelessness and the actual needs of this population. The primary question is, "What is preventing people from becoming stably housed in Atlanta's system of care?" The results will drive recommendations for improving the system of care in Atlanta.

Background:

There is information from the state, city, Atlanta Continuum of Care (a coalition of organizations aiming to end homelessness in Atlanta), private funders, and Federal agencies, especially the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development, on the financial resources being utilized by Atlanta and the source and purpose of those resources. Housing inventory charts and resource inventories of different Atlanta providers offer information on the services and housing available in the city for what populations and where.

Significant data collection has been done by the state of Georgia for the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's Homeless Management Information System, which includes data on clients and housing and service provisions. The Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress provides an analysis and summary of this information. The state also completed Point-in-time count surveys on homelessness. Finally, Atlanta service providers administer Housing Barrier Surveys to their clients and share the results with the Atlanta Continuum of Care.

This large amount of available data on the homeless population and resources offers the opportunity for systematic analysis of the gaps between the resources provided and the need so we can better understand what is inhibiting the current system from stably housing more people.

Procedure:

The proposed study is a descriptive analysis of pre-collected data from the Homeless Management Information System, Point in Time count surveys, and Housing Barrier Surveys. The HMIS and Housing Barrier Survey data cover the known population of people experiencing homelessness and receiving services, and PIT counts summarize one night's worth of surveying homeless people. The HMIS data, collected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, are on clients, service, and housing for those experiencing or at risk for homelessness. The PIT count survey data on homelessness were collected by the state of Georgia. Housing Barrier Survey data covers what is preventing people from being housed. All data are de-identified. The researcher was not involved in data collection in any way.

There is little to no risk to the subjects, as there will be no subject participation, and there will be no way to identify them with the existing data available to the researcher. HMIS, PIT, and Housing Barrier Survey data were collected under federal guidelines.

The study will be a descriptive analysis of variables picked based on the most significant characteristics of Atlanta homelessness according to the most recent Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (2013). The researcher will compare and contrast these results.

Proposed Timeline By Month:

Month of:	Objectives	Meeting (Fridays, 11:00)
September	1. 2.	9/1, 9/15
October	1. 2. 3.	10/1, 10/15
November	1. 2.	11/1, 11/15
December/January	1. 2.	12/1, 12/15, and one other date TBA
February	1. 2. 3.	2/1, 2/15
March	1. 2.	3/1, 3/15
April	1. 2. 3.	4/1, 4/15
May	1. 2.	5/1