

please send a message  
to Melanie  
([commugrad@ucsd.edu](mailto:commugrad@ucsd.edu))  
with your name and  
email so we can follow  
up with you!

# UC San Diego

Department of Communication  
Honors Program Information Session

Dr. Andrew deWaard [adewaard@ucsd.edu](mailto:adewaard@ucsd.edu)

# Honors Projects 2024-2025

A Garden in the Desert: Environmental Connection in the Japanese American Community's Past and Present

Cosmetics, Beauty Standards, and Self-Surveillance in China

The Representation of Solidarity and Political Struggle in *Arcane*

Is this town big enough for the two of us?:  
The representation of women in wild west TV shows

KPop, Parasocial Relationships, and Hypersexualization

The Force is Within Us: Examining the Relationship Between Star Wars Fan Communities and The Walt Disney Company

An Update to Third Place Theory:  
The Hybrid Third Place and Target Corporation

The Politics of Humanitarian Aid At The US-Mexico Border

Beers, Bros, and 'Ball: A look into the dichotomy of football fanhood

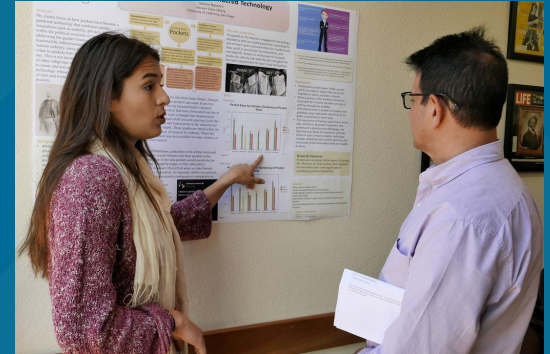
# What is the Senior Honors Program?

- Dive deeply into a topic of personal interest to you
- Learn how to conduct rigorous, in-depth and original research
- Experiment working with different research methodologies
- Get a taste for graduate school
- Develop skills for careers in policy and marketing research
- Direct and produce a documentary (or other media)



# Prepare for Graduate School, Careers in Policy and Marketing Research, or Media Production

- Work one on one with a faculty mentor and course instructor
- Work in a small group of supportive and collaborative peers
- Learn to present, explain and defend your research
- Build confidence in your intellectual abilities

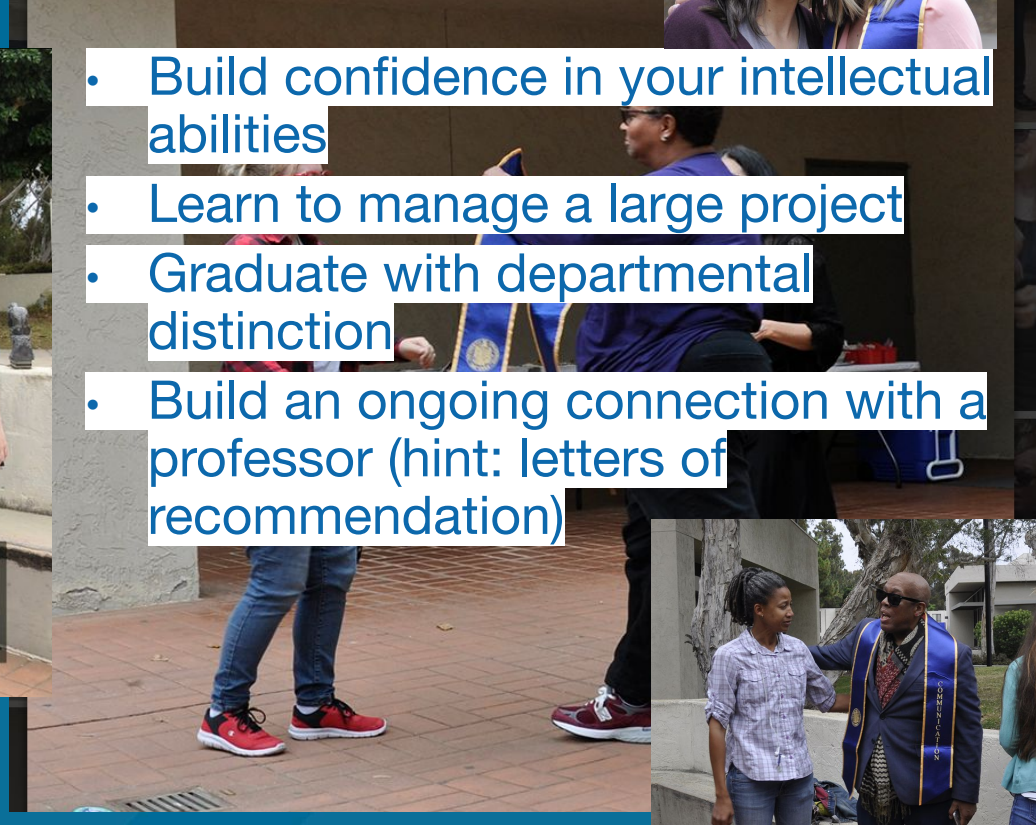




# Distinguish Yourself!



- Build confidence in your intellectual abilities
- Learn to manage a large project
- Graduate with departmental distinction
- Build an ongoing connection with a professor (hint: letters of recommendation)



# Small Seminar Format: 3 Quarter Sequence

COMM 196A Fall 2026

COMM 196B Winter 2027

\*\*\*

COMM 199H Spring 2027



# Honors Program Timeline

- around April 2026
  - there will be an email announcement + check the website
- around May 2026
  - Selection committee decisions are released
- Fall Quarter 2026
  - COMM 196A
- Winter Quarter 2027
  - COMM 196B
- Spring Quarter 2027
  - Independent Study: COMM 199H
  - Graduate with distinction in the major as Department Honors

# Course Objectives

- Fall - COMM 196A
  - Concept Mapping
  - Research Questions
  - Annotated Bibliography
  - Methods Justification
  - **Final Project:** Research Proposal
- Winter - COMM 196B
  - Literature Review
  - Research/Data Collection
  - Data Analysis
  - Writing and Revising
  - **Final Project:** Rough Draft
- Spring - COMM 199H
  - Finish the Project
  - Present to Department



## The Honors Program Application Includes:

- Application Form
- Faculty-Student Support Agreement Form
- Project Proposal (tentative)
- Writing Sample
- Honors Student Assessment Form



# Honors Projects 2023-2024

The Female Titan: Battling between Biopolitics, Intersectionality, and Pariah Femininity

Part of That World: An Analysis of Disney's Working Conditions and Branding

How Does Spotify Make You Feel? behavioral surveillance and mental health

Expanding Native Hawaiian Autonomy and Representation

Growing Pains: Navigating Eating Disorder Content in Girlhood Spaces

Prompt Generation & Misinformation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Pali-Time: A Podcast About Pro-Palestinian Student Activism

and...



HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED

Written by  
Ashley Jones

amjones@ucsd.edu

01.24.24 V5

# Honors Projects 2022-2023

The Power, Privilege, and Positionality of Sofia Coppola and her Films

Stand-Up to Stardom: Navigating Brown Comedy and its Social Repercussions

Self-Presentation and Gender Identities in Political Campaigning

Media Representations and Contemporary Ideas about Disability

This Is, Like, Totally Bogus: Media Representations of the Valley Girl

Resisting with Joy

In the World of a Dating Sim: The Rise of Otome Isekai

Superheroes and Dancing Princesses: Value Perception by Audiences on Franchising and Merchandising within the Film Industry



# Honors Projects 2021-2022

The Girls at the Rock Show:  
Gender Inequality in Pop Punk

Selling Something Social:  
The Relationship Between Touch, Advertising,  
and Society

The Misclassification of Native Advertising:  
Liberating the Forbidden Love-Child of  
Commercial and Editorial Content

Water Politics in the San Joaquin Valley

The Revolution and Media:  
Stories from Pre-Islamic Republic Iran

Power of Pockets:  
A Gendered Container Technology

Assessing the Roots and Symptoms of  
Platform Workers' and Content Moderators'  
Burnout in The Information Society

Stating Statehood: Using the Lens of the  
Catalonian Referendum to Examine the  
Frustrations for Autonomy

The Image Project  
Countering Stereotypes of African American  
Men in the Media

What's the Story, Mother? A Feminist Film  
Analysis of the Alien Quadrilogy

# Recent Topics

- Cultural Appropriation of African-American Aesthetics
- Affirming Cultural Group Identity
- Political Economy of Fundraising
- Constructing a National Cuisine: Korean Food
- Exploring Identity Expression in “Euphoria”
- Communication of Campus Sexual Assault
- Covering Black Lives Matter
- “Game of Thrones” from a Comparative Perspective
- Educational Technology



# Recent Genres

- Research Thesis
- Video Documentary
- Podcast
- Narrative Nonfiction
- Photo Essay





# Common Questions

- Can a lecturer or graduate student be advisor?
  - No, sorry; they can participate but not advise
- What if I'm not here for full Fall-Winter-Spring academic year?
  - No, sorry
- Difficulty finding advisor?
  - Talk with me/Melanie
- Unresponsive faculty member?
  - Might need to reach out to other potential advisors, and don't leave until last week, give faculty lots of time
- Need advisor for a creative project?
  - There are only a few faculty members (Profs. Davis, Martinico, and Ahn) who advise creative projects, so it can be competitive
- Do the Honors courses count towards COMM major?
  - 196a and 196b count as intermediate electives
  - 199h may count as an advanced elective



QUESTIONS?

## Further Questions?

Check out the Honors Program website:

<https://communication.ucsd.edu/undergrad/honors-program/index.html>

Make an appointment:

Professor Andrew deWaard  
Faculty Honors Program Advisor  
*adewaard@ucsd.edu*

or

Melanie Lynn  
Department Undergraduate Advisor  
*commugrad@ucsd.edu*