



## Boston College Scholar of the College

The Scholar of the College designation, awarded at the Scholars Banquet and recognized at the Commencement Awards Ceremony, is given to exceptional students who have excelled academically in their undergraduate studies and who have done substantial, independent work of the highest quality for a significant part of their senior year under the supervision of faculty scholars.

### **The Scholar of the College is a three part process.**

#### **Part 1 - Begin Administrative Process and Research**

In the spring of your junior year, you will indicate your interest in pursuing SOC status to Prof. Ismay and to your advisor. Your proposal will need to establish the specific ways in which your project is eligible, which normally means you are proposing a more ambitious project than an ordinary honors thesis would entail. That might mean that you are planning a bigger project (with more research than is possible in a single academic year) or that you are proposing a new methodology or doing interdisciplinary research. In any case, you will begin your research in earnest over the summer.

#### **Part 2 - SOC Candidacy: Departmental and Dean's Approval/Disapproval of Proposed Project**

1. In the late summer/early fall of your senior year, your advisor needs to forward your SOC proposal along with their letter of support (detailing why this project qualifies for SOC consideration) to Prof. Ismay, who will then send it along to the Chair of the History Department for review. The chair will read your proposals/letters and determine if they should be forwarded with departmental approval to the dean. If yes, the Chair will write a letter of support and send it up to the dean's office along with your package. **This letter is due mid September, so do please ensure that your advisor has your proposal so that they can complete their letter of support.**

2. Next, Dean Martin will be reviewing the proposals, advisor's letter, and chair's letter along with an audit of your transcript to be sure you are still eligible for the honor (must have a 3.7 GPA and no incomplete, etc.). His approval means that you can pursue SOC status, not that you have it. The SOC designation is only given to the actual project, not the proposal.

3. If approval for your project is granted by the dean, you will be enrolled by Stacy Moulis into the 6-credit Advanced Independent Research course, which will replace the Honors Seminar on your schedule, **but you will remain in the Honors Seminar class.** You will be dropping one of your current courses in order to accommodate the extra 3-credits.

### **Part 3 - SOC Status Approval/Disapproval: Formal Nomination of Thesis for Review and SOC Designation**

1. In early March, you will submit your nearly completed project to your advisor as well as to a second reader (someone who is "reasonably independent of the project and who have the appropriate expertise to judge the student's work"), whom your advisor will help you to identify. Both your advisor and the second reader will read your nearly completed thesis and write letters. The advisor's letter should assess the project and also say if the project is likely to be completed in time. The second reader will write a confidential report after reading the nearly completed thesis. These are nomination letters, indicating potential merit and successful completion. A full evaluation will follow a review of the completed thesis. **Both nomination letters should be sent directly to Dean Martin in Stokes S 112 by mid March.**

2. Once your nomination for SOC status has been approved by the Dean's office, there are two final steps. First, to receive the Scholar of the College award at Commencement, **two bound copies** of the completed thesis should be submitted to the Associate Dean's Office, Stokes 132 South, by **mid April, 2021**. Second, your advisor's evaluation and the second reader's review must be submitted one week later. (Thesis submissions after Monday the third week of April cannot be considered for the Scholar of the College Award.)